



# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section  
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## *NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2003*

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2003  
**Location:** Steven's Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m., Social Hour; 7:00 p.m., Dinner; 8:00 p.m.,  
Presentation  
**Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564, or email Brian Villalobos, by  
12:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2003  
**Cost:** \$25 per person with reservations, \$30 at the door.  
**SPEAKERS:** Allen M. Yourman, Jr. and Christopher M. Diaz  
**TITLE:** Pier T and Pier 400 Container Terminal Buildings Ground  
Improvement

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation focuses on ground improvement to mitigate the liquefaction hazard for 30 structures at the two largest container terminals in San Pedro Bay. At each project site, stone column and deep dynamic compaction ground improvement, along with piles were successfully used to mitigate the liquefaction hazard. A brief history is provided regarding recent regulatory requirements for liquefaction mitigation for buildings. Definitions and discussions of stone column and deep dynamic compaction techniques are provided. Advantages and disadvantages of these and other ground improvement techniques are addressed. A comparison of costs and schedules between ground improvement and driven piles are presented. Post-improvement data based on CPT soundings and SPT borings are interpreted.

**BIOS:** Mr. Allen Yourman, P.E., G.E., project manager for the Pier T project, will be one of the presenters. Mr. Yourman has a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from UCLA. Mr. Yourman has 25 years of geotechnical engineering experience in Southern California. He has designed, permitted and constructed projects using a wide variety of ground improvement techniques including stone columns, vibro concrete columns, vibro compaction, jet grouting, compaction grouting, deep soil mixing, and deep dynamic compaction.

Mr. Diaz, P.E. will also be one of the presenters and was the geotechnical project manager for the Pier 400 project (cont.)

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Mr. Diaz received his BS and ME in Civil Engineering from Texas A & M. Mr. Diaz has 9 years of geotechnical experience in Southern California and over 20 years experience in the Civil/Construction industries. Similar to Mr. Yourman, he has designed, permitted, and/or constructed projects using a wide variety of ground improvement techniques including stone columns, vibro concrete columns, jet grouting, compaction grouting, deep soil mixing, and deep dynamic compaction.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

By Tania Gonzalez

Our March meeting was a joint meeting with the Geotechnical Group of the Los Angeles Chapter of ASCE. Dr. Jeff Keaton gave a very high-tech presentation on modeling of the anticipated ground motion for the Hoover Dam bypass bridge that is expected to be completed in 2007. The computer graphics showing how the bridge would move if subjected to the modeled earthquake were truly impressive.

This month, our speakers, Allan Yourman and Chris Diaz of Diaz Yourman & Associates, will discuss the liquefaction improvements that they have completed for the Pier 400 in San Pedro. This classical geotechnical presentation should be of interest to engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers alike, so bring along the engineers in your office. Besides, with gas prices the way they are these days, it pays to carpool to these events.

In May, Dr. Chester (Skip) Watts will be presenting several rockslide case histories to illustrate misconceptions regarding mass-wasting that can lead to expensive or tragic results. Dr. Watts is the 2003 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, named jointly by AEG and the Engineering Geology Division of the GSA. The topic is "Rock Slides in Yosemite National Park." Our May meeting is also a fund-raising event to benefit the California Council for Geological Organizations. This group of dedicated individuals work very hard to bring geological issues to the attention of lawmakers in both Washington and Sacramento, lobbying to protect the interests of the geological community in building codes and other legislation that affect the health and welfare of the public. You can obtain more information about the CCGO and the May meeting from their web site [www.ccco.org](http://www.ccco.org). Please note that this meeting will be held on **Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, rather than our usual Tuesday meeting.

Regarding the suggested changes to the definition of geological work as proposed by the Board of Registration, I have received two (yes, only two) letters (via e-mail) with suggested changes to the text. In addition, Buzz Spellman, Hugh Robertson, Joe Cota and yours truly have discussed at length both in person and by e-mail the following the specific additions and

changes proposed by the Board, and have voted on the following:

1. leave in-- "problems and studies"
2. leave in-- "affecting public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, property and the environment"
3. Take out-- "except as otherwise specifically provided by this chapter"
4. Leave in-- "includes, but is not limited to"

Whether or not to leave in the text 'responsible supervision' is still being debated.

Our final comments to the Board are due by April 25<sup>th</sup>, so if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the above, please contact me by e-mail at [tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com](mailto:tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com). I will be compiling the information received and submitting a letter to the Board addressing the comments submitted by our members.

Regarding our new web site [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org) we have received a lot of very complimentary remarks, both from southern California members, and from members of other sections. Kudos to Kerry Cato for making this possible!

## 2003 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You probably received your 2003 dues statement from AEG National by now. If you have not received it, or are unsure about your membership status, please contact AEG Headquarters [aegweb.org](http://aegweb.org), or Tania Gonzalez. We are currently looking for a new Membership Chair. Please contact Tania Gonzalez you wish to volunteer.

## YEAR 2002-3 CONTRIBUTORS

**Earth Consultants International  
Robertson Geotechnical, Inc.**

YEAR 2002-3 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members for 2003 will be greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletter throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter if so desired. Please mail contributions made out to **AEG** to our section chair, Tania Gonzalez.

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Business Card	\$10/month	\$100/year
¼ page	\$20/month	\$200/year
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As mentioned in the last two months newsletter, The Board for Geologists & Geophysicists (BGG) has issued a request for Comments for a proposed regulation change that would redefine "professional geologic work". Based upon a "show of hands" at the last section meeting, it appeared that BGG had not sent this request out to any of the registered attendees and we have asked BGG why this happened. Our section legislative committee has received very few comments from our members thus far. We are still evaluating the reasons, and need for, BGG's proposal to redefine the practice of geology. We hope to have more information on this later this month. We encourage all of you to visit the following links:

Request for Comments:

[http://www.dca.ca.gov/geology/hot\\_topics/topics/comments3003.pdf](http://www.dca.ca.gov/geology/hot_topics/topics/comments3003.pdf)

Current Geologist and Geophysicist Act with Rules and regulations:

<http://www.dca.ca.gov/geology/about/act.pdf>

On another issue, it is our understanding that BGG may desire to change the experience requirements for licensure. This is apparently being treated as a separate issue. We will keep you apprised as we find out more about this.

**A Day in the Field with Tom Dibblee**

The Dibblee Foundation is leading a field trip to the Glendora/Baldy Village area, set for May 24, 2003. The Dibblee Geological Foundation and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History invite you to participate in A Day In The Field with *living-legend* Tom Dibblee, along with Cal Poly Professor Jon Nourse, Northridge Professor Peter Weigand, and Dibblee Map Editor John Minch. Tom and John's San Gabriel map collection will be available and will be featured. Fee: \$150 (includes coffee and doughnuts, BBQ lunch catered by Halliburton, ski lift, and guidebook plus map). Registration deadline is May 10, 2003. For information, e-mail John Powell at [dibbleemap@adelphia.net](mailto:dibbleemap@adelphia.net), call (805) 987-5846, write to PO Box 2309, Camarillo, CA 93011, or visit [dibblee.geol.ucsb.edu](http://dibblee.geol.ucsb.edu).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Petra Geotechnical, Inc.** is an established company for over 27 years with 5 offices throughout southern California. We are currently seeking to fill the following positions: Geotechnical Engineers and Geologists with three to five years of experience for our Orange County office.

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Jeanne Krinsky

Petra Geotechnical, Inc.

3185-A Airway Avenue

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

(Fax) 714-668-3770

Email: [jkrinsky@petra-inc.com](mailto:jkrinsky@petra-inc.com)

**Earth Resources, Inc.**

ERI is now accepting applications for experienced and entry level Staff Engineers and Field Technicians for full time employment in our Santa Clarita and Walnut offices. Email or fax resumes in confidence to: [joe@radiusmaps.net](mailto:joe@radiusmaps.net) or (800) 554-3205.

**LGC Lawson & Associates  
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LGC is looking for dynamic individuals to join our team and work on some of Orange County’s most interesting and technically challenging projects. If you are an experienced geotechnical professional, or just starting your career, please do not hesitate to contact us. All inquires will be considered in the utmost confidence. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Douglas E. Moran, Inc**

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Do you need reliable results of soil tests that you are not equipped to perform or do not have time to perform? Consider asking **Douglas E. Moran, Inc.** to perform the tests for you. They maintain a laboratory equipped to perform most tests (A.S.T.M., U.B.C., or CALTRANS) and you can always rely on the results. They are willing to perform long-term tests that may be inconvenient to perform in a laboratory that is too busy to allow testing machinery to be tied up for the length of time those tests may require. For you consideration, the following is a list of some of the conventional soil tests that they are equipped to perform.

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- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Consolidation                | Hydrometer Analysis                          |
| Consolidation Plus Time Rate | Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, Shrinkage Limit |
| Direct Shear                 | Moisture/Density (undisturbed)               |
| Residual Shear               | Maximum Density                              |
| Expansion                    | Sand Equivalent                              |
| Expansion Index              | Specific Gravity (soil and rock),            |
| Grain Size (Full Sieve Set)  | Swell or collapse (remolded air-dry, HUD)    |

Feel free to call and ask for **Doug Moran** or **Rick Herrera** at (714) 544-2215, Fax (714) 544-7395.



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