



# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section  
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## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2003

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2003  
**Location:** Stevens Steakhouse, 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., Monday, *January 13, 2003*,  
**Cost:** \$25.00 per person with advanced reservations, \$30.00 at the door, and \$10.00 for students w/ valid I.D., "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00

**SPEAKER:** Woodrow "Woody" Higdon

**TITLE:** MapInfo GIS Software Applications

**ABSTRACT:** Mr. Woodrow "Woody" Higdon will discuss the latest developments in GIS software, with emphasis on the latest versions of MapInfo. MapInfo is very powerful and relatively inexpensive software (compared to ESRI products) that has tremendous applications in the geological, geotechnical and environmental fields. The most recent versions allow draping of topography and other 3-dimensional layers onto a base map, generating some very powerful (and great looking) graphics. Woody will also show us the latest in aerial photographic techniques that he uses for his geologic clients.

**BIO:** Woody Higdon is a professional geologist, practicing in the State of California for over 25 years. Woody's background is unique, beginning with 4 years in the US Marine Corps where he learned the fundamentals in hydrology, mapping, underwater photography and interpreting aerial photographs [not to mention loads of different types of warfare training].

Woody's military background led him to the profession of Police officer for the Cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove for over four years, and from there Woody pursued his skills and interests in photography and diving, ultimately leading to a geology degree from CSU Long Beach in 1975. Woody's passion for his profession is equaled only with his skills as a professional diver, helicopter pilot, and advanced skier. Woody is a part of the AEG brotherhood along with numerous other professional associations and societies.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

By Tania Gonzalez

Happy New Year! Southern California has certainly started 2003 in a memorable way, with some of the strongest Santa Ana winds in recent memory, fires, and floods. Let us hope that this is not an indication of how the rest of the year will be. Just in case, though, this might be a good month to check your earthquake supply kits, and completing some of those disaster prevention projects around the house and office you have been meaning to get around to.

At least in the geotechnical field, winter is typically less hectic than the summer, although most people I have talked to lately have said that they are as busy as usual. This is good news considering that we are supposed to be in a recession. However, even if you are busy, this may also be the right time to catch up with the latest developments in the field, and take some short courses. In that spirit, this month's speaker is Woody Higdon, who will be discussing the latest in GIS software and digital photography for geologic applications. I do hope you can make it. Please RSVP by noon, Monday, January the 13th.

Quite a few people are also studying for the upcoming RG or CEG exams, as suggested by the sold out short course that REG Review is hosting this Saturday in the Southern California area. If you do trenching work, remember that Cal-OSHA requires that a competent person be designated at every job site. Trench Shoring Company is presenting an 8-hour Competent Person training seminar for \$100.00/person. They also teach a Confined Space Entry Training seminar. These seminars are held once a month (for Competent Person), and once every other month (for Confined Space Entry) at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Anaheim. I took one of their courses a few years ago, and found it well worth it. If you are interested, call Trench Shoring Company for additional information at 310-323-9648.

Finally, the International Conference of Building Officials is presenting several short courses on the application of the 1997 UBC seismic design provisions. For additional information on this short course and many other short courses that they offer, go to [www.icbo.org](http://www.icbo.org)

Matt Hawley is working very hard to put together the list of speakers for this year. If you have a presentation you would like to share with your colleagues, or you have a recommendation about upcoming meetings, please give Matt a call. Don't forget to mark the second Tuesday of every month on your calendar as AEG night! See you at the meetings.

AEG SCHOLARSHIP

AEG has two scholarships that we offer each year. We are presently accepting applications for the Tilford Field Scholarships! We will award two this coming spring - one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate. The money will help the undergraduate with field camp or working on a field project for a senior thesis, and the graduate student will use the money for field work on their thesis. The scholarship is awarded to qualified student members of AEG who have demonstrated scholarship, leadership and participation in their university programs.

To find out more about this award, contact the AEG website [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) under the foundation subheading. Any questions, contact Debbie Green Tilford, chair of the NRT Scholarship Committee at [tilgreen@aol.com](mailto:tilgreen@aol.com)

If you are a student, consider applying. If you are a regular member and you know a qualified student, encourage them to apply. Deadline for applications is January 31, 2003.

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  
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YEAR 2002-3 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members for 2002 are 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.

## **AEG/ASCE, CGS Special Publication 117 Landslide Workshop**

This two-day workshop, presented by the members of the slope stability committee, is intended to summarize and explain the recommended procedures, and provide time for interaction with the authors. The workshop is intended for both managing and practicing engineers and geologists. Speakers will include T. Blake, R. Hollingsworth, R. Jibson, R. Masuda, D. Pradel, C. Real, N. Sathialingam, and J. Stewart. Participants will receive a notebook containing printed copies of the speakers' presentations and a CD-ROM of the presentations as PowerPoint files. The CD will also include an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to calculate earthquake-induced displacements by a committee-recommended simplified procedure and a Windows computer program developed by R. Jibson (USGS) to perform rigid-block Newmark-type seismically induced displacement integration analyses. Workshop materials also will include worked examples of seismically induced slope deformation calculations. Continuing Education units will be available to attendees through the Association of Engineering Geologists. Please visit the website for registration form and additional details.

[www.scec.org/resources/landslide.html](http://www.scec.org/resources/landslide.html)

### **Fee Increase**

Effective February 3, 2003, the City of Los Angeles will require fees for reviewing compaction reports and reports submitted to the Department's Correction letters be charged in accordance to the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 91.107.8.1. These two types of reports will be considered as reports for minor work, and one-half of the standard fees will be charged. The Department's Fee Schedule effective February 3, 2003 is as follows:

| <b>Report Types</b>                | <b>1st Time Submittal</b> | <b>Response to Corrections</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Combined Geology & Soils           | \$410 (unchanged)         | <b>\$205</b>                   |
| Geology, Soils, Seismic or Methane | \$240 (unchanged)         | <b>\$120</b>                   |
| Compaction                         | <b>\$120</b>              | <b>\$60</b>                    |

Please note that in addition to the above fees, there is also an 11 percent surcharge plus \$5.00 that is added to determine the total fee. If you have any questions regarding the above, call Dana Prevost at (213) 482-0488 or David Hsu at (213) 482-0481.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **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

#### **Kingston Engineering, Inc.**

Kingston Engineering, Inc. a newly established engineering design firm is looking for a business partner (CEG or PE prefer GE, 6 to 10 years experience) to operate our Geotechnical Branch. We have a fully equipped and certified soil laboratory. If you are ready to run your own Geotechnical business, please send your resume. All responses shall be confidential.

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## Haley & Aldrich, Inc.

Haley & Aldrich, Inc. is seeking the following staff to serve prestigious industrial clients on interesting environmental projects in their Brea, CA (East Los Angeles) office:

Civil, Geological, or Environmental engineer (4 to 5 years experience)

CA Registered Geologist (5 to 6 years experience)

Toxicologist (2 years experience)

Senior Geotechnical Engineer (7 to 8 years experience)

Interested parties should email resume, statement of qualifications and career interests to Travis Hammond, [TSH@HaleyAldrich.com](mailto:TSH@HaleyAldrich.com)



**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:

Qualified civil, geotechnical and environmental engineers, geologists, and technicians in the fields of geotechnical and environmental engineering, materials testing, and special inspection for all office locations.

An individual who is a registered civil/geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist with 10+ years of relevant experience in land development to fill the position of Office Manger at our Los Angeles County Office.

Please send resume to:

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)

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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.



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## Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Senior Geologist

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## Douglas E. Moran, Inc

### ENGINEERING GEOLOGY SOIL ENGINEERING

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 your 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.



# Do your boots get dirty?

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| Baldwin, J.E. and Sitar, N., 1991, <b><u>Loma Prieta Earthquake: engineering geologic perspectives</u></b> , AEG Special Publication No. 1, 170p   | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Bishop, K, and Tandy, 1995, <b><u>Ground Failure during the January 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake</u></b> : Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section, Annual Field Trip Guidebook, November 11, 1995, 106p. | \$20.00 |     |       |
| Briggs, R.P. and Parke, C.D., 1990, <b><u>Guide to Field Trips in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia</u></b> . AEG 33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, October 1-5   | \$15.00 |     |       |
| <b><u>Highway and Railroad Slope Maintenance</u></b> : AEG, 34 <sup>th</sup> annual meeting, September 29 <sup>th</sup> – October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1991   | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Leighton, F.B. <b><u>Mitigation of geotechnical litigation in California</u></b> : Munson Book Associates, Huntington Beach, California, 274p.   | \$20.00 |     |       |
| Sieh, K.E., and Matti, J.C., 1992, <b><u>Earthquake geology, San Andreas fault system, Palm Springs to Palmdale</u></b> : AEG, 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Field Trip Guidebook, October 3-4, 1992                                | \$10.00 |     |       |
| Stout, M.L., ed., 1992, <b><u>Proceedings of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, Association of Engineering Geologists</u></b> , October 2-9, 1992: 740p.  | \$5.00  |     |       |
| Tepel, R, 1995, <b><u>Professional Licensure for Geologists, an Exploration of Issues</u></b> , Association of Engineering Geologists Special Publication No. 7, 1995  | \$12.00 |     |       |
| Cann, L.R., Cobarrubias, Hollingsworth, B., 1992, <b><u>Engineering Geology Field Trips Orange County, Santa Monica Mountains, and Malibu</u></b> : AEG 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Field Trip Guidebook, October 2-9, 1992       | \$10.00 |     |       |
| <b><u>Los Angeles Metro Rail System Field Trip Guidebook</u></b> . Association of Engineering Geologists, 35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting October 2-9, 1992 Long Beach, California   | \$10.00 |     |       |

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