



## ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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### ***NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2003***

#### **JOINT DINNER MEETING WITH COAST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 17, 2003  
**Location:** Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 3801 Market Street,  
Ventura, CA (directions: [www.coastgeologicalsociety.org](http://www.coastgeologicalsociety.org))  
**Time:** 6:00 pm--Social Hour, 7:00 pm—Dinner, 8:00 pm--Talk  
**Reservations &  
Meal Selection:** Call Dave Brown (805) 653 –7975, fax (805) 653 –7452 or  
email [cgs.rsvp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgs.rsvp@sbcglobal.net) by 12:00 p.m., Friday, June  
13, 2003, along with meal selection (tri-tip or veggie  
lasagna)  
**Cost:** \$12 per person with reservations, \$17 at the door, \$7 for  
students.  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Kerry Sieh

**TITLE:** The Denali, Alaska Earthquake of 2002

**ABSTRACT:** Field investigations have revealed that the Mw7.9 Denali fault earthquake of November 3, 2002 resulted from 325 kilometers of breaks along three distinct faults. Rupture proceeded unilaterally from west to east, beginning with a 40-km break along the north-dipping Susitna Glacier fault. The principal surface break was along a 215 km-long stretch of the Denali fault, where dextral offsets averaged about 5 m but ramped upward toward the east. Farther east, the Totschunda fault sustained discontinuous dextral offsets of  $\leq 2$  m along a 69 km length.

This tripartite rupture ranks among Earth's largest strike-slip events of the past two centuries, comparable to the great California events of 1857 and 1906. The rupture raises important questions about the nature of seismic faulting, Alaskan active tectonics, and the possibility of forecasting future events in Alaska (as well as in California). The survival of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline at its crossing of the rupture underscores the relevance of geologic hazard assessment in the design of critical structures.

**BIO:** Dr. Sieh is a Professor of Geology in the Seismological Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, and a Senior Consultant and Partner with Earth Consultants International. Dr. Sieh's principal research involves the study of earthquakes by geological methods. His documentation of ancient earthquakes and slip rates along the San Andreas, San Jacinto and other California faults set the standard for quantitative estimates of the probability of future destructive earthquakes in California. (cont.)

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(cont.)

Currently Dr. Sieh's work is in Taiwan, Turkey, Indonesia and California. He has served on numerous scientific peer-review committees and advisory panels for State and Federal governments and has served as a consultant to various public utilities, municipalities and geotechnical firms. He formed and led the earthquake geology working group of the Southern California Earthquake Center.

Please note the contact info for this month's meeting, as well as the dinner choice.

## **CHAIR'S COLUMN**

By Tania Gonzalez

he next two monthly meetings we are joining forces with two other local geological organizations, and as a result we will not be meeting at Steven's Steakhouse. I hope that this will encourage many of you who do not make it to our regular Los Angeles County meetings to come out and enjoy an evening with fellow geologists. Our meeting this month will be in Ventura, from where we will take a visual tour of Alaska and observe some of the surface rupture caused by the Denali Earthquake of November 2002. Our guide will be Dr. Kerry Sieh who is an engaging speaker and avid educator. I hope you can make it! Please call or e-mail and make your reservations (and dinner selection) as indicated in the front page of this newsletter.

In July we will meet with the South Coast Geological Society at a still to-be-announced location in Orange County. Our guest speaker for that meeting will be Eldon Gath, who will be talking about the uplift of the Puente Hills and Santa Ana Mountains.

The AEG Headquarters in Denver, CO will be moving to a new location that is only about three blocks from their current facility. Scott Burns and Julie Keaton have moved all of the remaining equipment and files, including publications, from the Texas A&M Campus to the Denver location. Becky Roland, our Chief Staff Executive, has been working very hard to increase membership. Six-month memberships are now being offered to past-members who have not remained current. If you know someone in your organization that has let his or her membership lag, let them know about this special offer. For additional information, they can contact me at [tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com](mailto:tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com), or Becky Roland directly at [broland@aegweb.org](mailto:broland@aegweb.org).

The AEG web site has been beefed up with job postings, and meeting announcements. It is a great tool that I encourage you to visit on a regular basis. AEG is also moving forward with an E-store on their web site. The annual meeting in Vail, CO will be this September, from the 15th to the 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting committee is working very hard to make this a great meeting. Mark your

calendars and make your reservations. For additional information log on to [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org).

See you in Ventura this month!

## **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.

## **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**

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| Business Card | \$10/month | \$100/year |
| ¼ page        | \$20/month | \$200/year |
| ½ page        | \$35/month | \$350/year |
| Full page     | \$50/month | \$500/year |

## NATIONAL NEWS

The American Geological Institute (AGI) Government Affairs Monthly Review included the following news bites. For additional information and prior updates refer to the AGI web site under "Government Affairs" [www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org)

- Reps. Vern Ehlers and Nick Smith, both Michigan Republicans who chair subcommittees of the House Science Committee, have circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter to encourage their fellow members of Congress to sign a joint statement in support of increased funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The statement, which had more than 150 signers, was sent to Reps. James Walsh (R-NY) and Alan Mollohan (D-WV), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over NSF. Last year, President Bush signed into law a bill that authorized doubling the NSF budget over the next five years. In order to remain on this doubling path, signatories to the statement requested that NSF be funded at \$6.39 billion for fiscal year 2004. The House and Senate Appropriations committees will begin crafting their bills in the coming weeks. The list of signers and a copy of the letter is available at [www.cnsfweb.org/Ehlers-dearcolleague-apr03.html](http://www.cnsfweb.org/Ehlers-dearcolleague-apr03.html). Geoscientists are encouraged to look for their representative on the list and express their thanks for the strong support of science. The original AGI alert can be found at [www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/nsfletter\\_alert0503.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/nsfletter_alert0503.html).
- On May 8th, the House Science Committee held a hearing on the reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Subcommittee Chair Nick Smith (R-MI) noted that NEHRP has contributed significantly towards improving the nation's understanding of earthquakes. But he and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) critically reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) role as the lead NEHRP agency, especially with the agency's recent move into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Lofgren questioned whether FEMA is the best lead agency for NEHRP, and Smith suggested that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) might be a more appropriate lead, or perhaps a rotating directorate. FEMA representative Anthony Lowe, who was the lone federal witness, responded that because DHS is an all-hazard agency, NEHRP is now "more at home than ever." He added that earthquake mitigation activities, such as improving building codes, have also increased protection from terrorist activities. At the start of his testimony, Lowe unveiled a newly released strategic plan for NEHRP covering the years 2001 to 2005 -- dates reflecting the plan's actual completion two years earlier. The delay in releasing the plan further concerned the subcommittee with regard to FEMA. Declining funding for NEHRP, which has fallen 40% in real dollars since the program was initiated in 1978, also received attention at the hearing. Lofgren was especially troubled that the USGS's Advanced National Seismic System has only been funded at about 10% of its authorized amount. She suggested to Smith that they send a letter to the appropriators calling for improved funding to assure the proper resources for NEHRP. A summary of the hearing with links to testimony is at [www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/nehrrp.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/nehrrp.html).
- Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) resumed her fight to ban all asbestos containing products by reintroducing her Ban Asbestos in America Act (S. 1115) this month. Asbestos was banned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1989 as a carcinogen when inhaled, but the rule was overturned in the courts. S. 1115, in addition to banning asbestos, would require the EPA to conduct a public awareness campaign about asbestos; invest in research, tracking, and treatment of asbestos diseases; and issue a study into expanding regulation beyond the six currently regulated forms of asbestos identified by the National Academies and an EPA blue-ribbon panel. Murray introduced her bill the day after the EPA launched a national consumer awareness campaign to warn homeowners not to disturb vermiculite attic insulation, as it may contain small quantities of asbestos. Disturbing the insulation could release asbestos fibers into the air, exposing homeowners. While Congress and the EPA continue to consider how best to protect consumers from asbestos exposure, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) proposed legislation aimed at settling the skyrocketing cost of asbestos-related litigation. His proposal would create a \$108 billion trust fund and award compensation based on a set of medical criteria recently established by the American Medical Association. More at [www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/asbestos.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/asbestos.html)
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee began a series of hearings in May to review water resource issues. At a May 7th hearing, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment heard testimony regarding H.R. 135, a bill that seeks to establish the Twenty-first Century Water Commission for the purpose of developing a national comprehensive water strategy. Subcommittee Chairman John Duncan (R-TN) noted that the water commission is not intended to impose on state water rights but to provide federal expertise and technical assistance to the water problem. Witnesses and subcommittee members were supportive, with suggestions mostly aimed towards

the ultimate goal of the commission. The Interstate Council on Water Policy recommended broadening the commission's focus to more than water supply acquisition and development to include conservation, including alternative strategies such as water reuse and reclamation, desalination, and surface and groundwater conjunctive use. On May 22nd, the subcommittee held a hearing on water supply in the face of increasing demand. Witnesses from local municipalities, agriculture, and industry testified on the increasing occurrence of water shortfalls. There was consensus that previous attitudes toward water as a ubiquitous resource have led to poor planning and the current water supply problem. More at [www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/water\\_hearings.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/water_hearings.html).

- On May 10th, the Texas House of Representatives passed a bill restoring the State Board of Education's absolute control over textbook content. Previous legislation had diminished the board's power, which it has often used to censor or modify textbooks, including successful efforts last year to remove mention of the age of the Earth from social studies textbooks. Due to the size of the Texas textbook market, the state's decisions exert considerable influence over publishers and the national textbook marketplace. The bill is currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Education. One state to the north, the Oklahoma Educator Protection Act was finally defeated a month after the Oklahoma House of Representatives attached an amendment to the legislation requiring a disclaimer in all public school science textbooks that discusses evolution. After being sent back to the State Senate, the amendment was approved, but a vote on the entire bill failed 23-17 on May 12th because it lacked the 25 votes required for a simple majority of the full Senate (there were a number of abstentions). Sen. Scott Pruitt (R), author of the legislation, quickly moved for the vote to be reconsidered, which failed to get the necessary majority by one vote. More on these developments at [www.ncseweb.org](http://www.ncseweb.org) and [www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/evolution.html](http://www.agiweb.org/gap/legis108/evolution.html).

## STATE NEWS

The CCGO reports that the budget hearing of May 28 addressed the Governor's proposal for both the Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP) and the Seismic Hazard Mapping Program (SHMP) programs which was as follows:

SMIP - a \$1 million augmentation to current budget to support program activities to provide instrumentation to measure the motion of structures during seismic events to assist emergency response to locations impacted by the strongest ground motion and to assist in retrofit activities. The current budget is \$3.4m for this year and will increase to \$4.4m the next fiscal year (FY) to continue the expansion of the network of strong motion instruments statewide.

SHMP - The committee also voted for the Governor's proposal which augments this program by \$1.2 m. to back-fill the funding gap for one year. The SHMP program is funded by building fees dedicated to seismic safety and funded by those fees at the \$1.9m level in FY 02-03. Federal grants, which expire at the end of FY 02-03, added \$2.4m to the total allocated to seismic hazards mapping in FY 02-03. This program is proposed to be funded at the \$3.2 m from the dedicated building fees for FY 03-04. The total funding for this program for FY 03-04 will be \$4.4 m.

The Senate also supported the Governor's proposal and the Senate Republicans did not raise this as an issue. The Governor would be expected to continue supporting his proposal for these two programs. The two houses will be voting on the budget packages in the next few days, weeks or months depending on the negotiations.

## NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE GEOLOGIST LICENSING BOARD

Senate Bill 5065, signed into law May 14, 2003, makes it possible to obtain a Washington State Geologist or Geologist specialty license **without** taking an examination. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must have your complete application to our office, or postmarked, **BY JUNE 30, 2003**. A complete application includes:

- Signed application;
- Application fee;
- Sealed college transcripts or documentation of completion of educational equivalents. If you cannot otherwise meet the educational requirements, credit may be given for on-the-job training;
- Signed Employment and Experience Verification and Personal Reference forms; and
- Completed List of Projects forms (if applying for a specialty license).

Education and experience requirements are found in WAC 308-15-040. You may also continue to apply for licensure via examination, which may be preferable if you intend to seek licensure in other jurisdictions.

Special instructions and forms are available on the Geologist Licensing Website at [www.dol.wa.gov/design/geofront.htm](http://www.dol.wa.gov/design/geofront.htm) or by contacting:

Leslie Saeger, Program Manager, Geologist Licensing Board  
PO Box 9045  
Olympia, WA 98507-9045  
(360) 664-1497 [lsaeger@dol.wa.gov](mailto:lsaeger@dol.wa.gov)

## **SUMMER 2003 REVIEW COURSES for the ASBOG GEOLOGY LICENSING EXAM**

The Association of Engineering Geologists is pleased to announce the Summer 2003 series of review courses for the ASBOG geology licensing exam taught by REG Review, Inc. AEG and REG Review, Inc. have partnered to provide these courses since 1992. In the Summer of 2003, review courses will be offered in Philadelphia, PA, Seattle, WA, Charlotte, NC, Chicago, IL as well as the regular Northern and Southern California locations.

Course dates and locations in California are as follows:

Southern California Course - (2003SC-2)  
Best Western Orange County Airport North  
2700 Hotel Terrace  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
714-432-8888  
DATE - July 11, 2003, 8am - 5pm

Northern California Course - (2003NC-2)  
Samuel Merritt College Health Education Center  
400 Hawthorne Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510-869-6161  
DATE - July 12, 2003, 8am - 5pm

California Courses are \$385 for AEG members, \$400 for nonmembers. ASBOG Courses are \$340 for AEG members, \$355 for nonmembers. Pre-registration deadline for the Summer '03 courses is June 20, 2003.

REG Review, Inc. has been teaching these courses in California since 1985. In March 2000, they began to direct their teaching towards the ASBOG geology licensing exam. The pass rate for students in classes since then has ranged from 85 to 98%. The courses are taught by Patti Sutch, California RG 3949, CEG1641, and CHG 25, and Lisa Dirth, California RG 3951, CEG 1240, and North Carolina RG by ASBOG exam. Current information on 2003 study manuals, flash cards, and courses may be found online at <http://regreview.com>

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **LevineFricke**

Levine Fricke is seeking Project Engineers/Scientists with the ability to handle multiple projects and effectively manage staff. One position involves strong technical and communication skills. Will conduct and manage Phase 1 ESA's and be part of LFR's Due Diligence group. Bachelors in Environmental Science, Geography, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, Civil) or Geosciences required. 5+ years experience in related field desired.

Second position is for the Lead/Asbestos/IAQ group. Successful candidate will conduct and manage inspections, abate- ment monitoring, write and review reports. 3+ years industry experience required. CAC/DHS certification required. Bachelors in Environmental Science desired.

LFR Levine-Fricke is a growing company and has been selected by ENR Magazine as a Top 100 Environmental Consulting firm. Please e-mail resumes to: [hr.emv@lfr.com](mailto:hr.emv@lfr.com). Principals only please.

**CDM**

CDM a global leader in consulting, engineering, construction and operations has the following immediate opening for an Engineering Geologist in its Irvine, CA office. The successful candidate will conduct geologic field investigations on a wide range of public and private projects involving seismic evaluations, landslides, and subsurface soil, rock and water conditions for dams, buildings, water and waste water treatment facilities, transportation projects and remedial actions. The candidate will perform and supervise geotechnical and geo-environmental analysis, design, and construction engineering services. They will provide project management for geotechnical and geo-environmental projects including the preparation of scope, schedules and budgets. The successful candidate will contribute to business development and proposal efforts and prepare technical reports. Minimum of five years' experience in geotechnical and/or geo-environmental engineering required. BA in Engineering Geology or related discipline required; MA in Engineering Geology preferred. CA Certified Engineering geologist and OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER required. Qualified candidates please send your resume and cover letter to:

Michaela Carroll; E-Mail: [carrollmm@cdm.com](mailto:carrollmm@cdm.com) Fax: (617) 452-8791  
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**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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**Douglas E. Moran, Inc****ENGINEERING GEOLOGY  
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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 your consideration, the following is a list of some of the conventional soil tests that they are equipped to perform.

Remolded and/or Undisturbed:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 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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# Do your boots get dirty?

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Leighton and Associates is seeking Project and Senior Project Engineers/ Geologists who have: PE/GE or RG/CEG registrations; 5 years of project management experience for public works and commercial/residential land development and construction projects; experience managing professional and field staff; skill in preparing proposals, reports and client presentations, and the talent for interfacing with clients from the sales efforts through project execution.

Leighton offers a comprehensive flexible benefits package. Our website has additional details and program highlights.

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or send to Human Resources in our  
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