

## ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

*"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,  
and Groundwater Geology Since 1957"*

### **NEWSLETTER – MAY 2003**

#### **MONTHLY DINNER MEETING-CCGO FUNDRAISER**

**Date:** Monday May 12, 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., Thursday, May 8, 2003  
**Cost:** \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 at the door, \$15 for students.  
**SPEAKERS:** Dr. Chester F. (Skip) Watts  
**TITLE:** Rockslides: Case Histories and Common Misconceptions

**ABSTRACT:** Potential hazards from rock falls and rockslides are on the rise as land development reaches into previously untouched areas, as aging highways and railroads require upgrades and new construction, and as people throng to public lands for recreation. At the same time, new generations of decision makers in the forms of politicians, administrators, land use planners, architects, engineers, and even geologists, continue to emerge who don't understand or recognize some of the most fundamental principles of mass wasting. And in recent years, numerous misconceptions regarding some fundamental principles have proved resistant to eradication.

Dramatic examples are to be found across the country. Case histories will be presented for consideration, including spectacular rockslides in Yosemite National Park, Virginia's Smart Road technology test bed, Thomas Jefferson's Natural Bridge of Virginia, highway stability in North Carolina, and weapons testing facilities in the west. Each case is compelling and contentious. Some are expensive and some are tragic.

Recurring misconceptions include the relative merits of constructing vertical slopes versus angled slopes, the roles of discontinuities in controlling rockslides, the direction of groundwater flow in fractured rock, the volumes of water necessary to trigger slides, and the variable nature of earth materials. These concepts are simple but not to be ignored.

#### OFFICERS

##### CHAIR

Tania Gonzalez  
(714) 282-6123  
[tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com](mailto:tgonzalez@earthconsultants.com)

##### VICE CHAIR

Matthew Hawley  
(818) 707-8320  
[mhawley@leightongeo.com](mailto:mhawley@leightongeo.com)

##### TREASURER

Brian Villalobos  
(714) 549-8921  
[bvillalobos@petra-inc.com](mailto:bvillalobos@petra-inc.com)

##### SECRETARY

Jeff Kofoed  
(818) 842-2543  
[jckofoed@hotmail.com](mailto:jckofoed@hotmail.com)

**BIO:** Dr. Watts is the 2003 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, named jointly by the Association of Engineering Geologists and the Geological Society of America Engineering Geology Division. A certified professional geologist in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Skip is the Dalton Distinguished Professor of Geology at Radford University, where he has worked since 1984. There he established the Institute for Engineering Geosciences and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in engineering, engineering geology, hydrogeology, geomorphology, geophysics, soil mechanics, rock mechanics, computer applications in geology and advanced engineering geology.

Skip is also the author of ROCKPACK III computer software, used internationally for analyzing the safety and stability of mines, quarries, highway cuts, mountain slopes, buildings, and bridge foundations. He serves as a rock slope stability consultant to numerous highway departments, federal agencies, and engineering firms.

Skip is the recipient of several regional and national teaching awards, including the 1998 Outstanding Professor Award from the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. He appeared in a television documentary called SLIDE! on The Learning Channel as well as on National Public Radio, by cell phone, while rock climbing during a rockslide study in Yosemite National Park.

Skip served 14 months on Senator Joseph Lieberman's personal staff as the 2001-2002 GSA/USGS Congressional Science Fellow. During that time came the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the anthrax attacks and closure of the Hart Senate Office Building, and the war in Afghanistan with inevitable geologic factors at play. Also during that time came congressional debates over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the disposal of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, and preparations for the great reauthorization of national transportation funding in 2003. In his alternate Jahns lecture Watts describes his personal experiences as a senate "staffer" and the important political geologic issues of the day. Perhaps we will get a glimpse at that part of Skip's experience during his Rockslides! presentation.

## **CHAIR'S COLUMN**

By Tania Gonzalez

The presentation by the 2003 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Chester (Skip) Watts, is finally here! Dr. Watts founded the Institute for Engineering Geosciences at Radford University in Virginia, where he is a Distinguished Professor of Geology. His areas of expertise include rock slope stability and software development, having authored the program ROCKWARE III that is used to analyze the stability and safety of rock faces in quarries, mines, road cuts and other environs. He is an excellent speaker, and his presentation on Case Histories and Common Misconceptions regarding Rockslides should be very informative but also fun, as he is taking us on a visual tour of Yosemite National Park and other rockform treasures in the US of A. So, please join us on MONDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup> at Stevens Steakhouse for this event.

Last month, Mr. Chris Diaz of Diaz Yourman & Associates gave a very interesting and detailed talk on the use of several ground improvement methods used at both Pier 400 in Los Angeles and Pier T in Long Beach. He discussed the advantages and disadvantages of stone column, deep dynamic compaction, piles and other ground improvement methods used in liquefaction susceptible areas, down to the cost per square foot of structure and schedule constraints for each method. Mr. Diaz was very generous of his time and expertise, sharing information with several of the geotechnical

engineers in the audience who were taking extensive notes. Thank you Chris!

The April 25<sup>th</sup> deadline to submit comments to the Board of Registration regarding the proposed changes to the definition of geological work is also approaching fast (by the time you read this, it will most likely have passed). The Southern California Section is preparing a formal reply to the Board. A copy of this response will be posted on our web site [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org) and in next month's newsletter.

The American Geological Institute (AGI) reports that for its FY 2004 request, the EPA has sought a total of \$7.6 billion, down 5% from the agency's FY 2003 appropriation. In response to congressional criticism of how it incorporates science into decision making, EPA has a newly established Science Advisor who, according to budget documents, "will be responsible for ensuring the availability and use of the best science to support Agency policies and decisions, as well as advising the EPA Administrator on science and technology issues and their relationship to the Agency policies, procedures, and decisions." EPA has requested \$360 million for its goal of Sound Science. The STAR fellowship program, which was marked for elimination in last year's request, is slated for just under \$5 million, roughly half the funding Congress provided in FY 2003. For information regarding other federal government appropriations for scientific projects relating to the geosciences, refer to AGI's web page at [www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org).

To help with the \$35 billion State deficit, California is proposing to abandon the State's Strong Motion Instrumentation Program and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program, both of which cost about \$7.8 million a year, a mere "drop" in the overall deficit "bucket". By the California Geological Survey's reckoning, the 106 quadrangles that they have zoned for liquefaction and earthquake-induced slope stability amount to only about 34 percent of the State's most hazardous areas that merit mapping and zoning. To discourage the State from moving forward with the cancellation of these projects, please write to your local representative. Examples of letters and further discussion of this issue can be found at [www.seismicactivist.homestead.com](http://www.seismicactivist.homestead.com).

On a last note, the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of AEG is scheduled for May 2-4 in Portland, Oregon. Yours truly will be representing the Southern California Section. I will report on the state of the association in the June newsletter, but you are certainly welcome to ask me about it at the next meeting. Just be there!

Visit our Section website [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org)

### **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 if you wish to volunteer.

### **YEAR 2002-3 CONTRIBUTORS**

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

### **YEAR 2003-2004 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**

Business Card	\$10/month	\$100/year
1/4 page	\$20/month	\$200/year
1/2 page	\$35/month	\$350/year
Full page	\$50/month	\$500/year

## **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**

## **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  
Website: [www.cdm.com](http://www.cdm.com) (EOE/A

## 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.A)



**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.

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)



Lawson & Associates  
Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.

Lawson & Associates Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.  
1020 Calle Cordillera, Suite 101  
San Clemente, CA 92673  
Telephone: (949) 369-6141 Fax: (949) 369-6142  
Website: [www.lgcgeo.com](http://www.lgcgeo.com) Email: [www.info@lgcgeo.com](mailto:www.info@lgcgeo.com)

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.



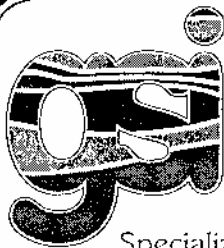
**The Structural Engineering Consultants,  
Inc.**

**GREG RILEY P.E.**  
PRINCIPAL

- Residential Developments
- Seismic Engineering
- Nationwide Retail  
(Licensed in 48 states, including: Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands)
- Foundation Engineering/Underpinning  
(Expert specialty in A.B. Chance Foundation Piers)

Located at:  
27200 Tourney Road Suite 390  
Valencia, CA 91355

Tel: 661.287.5800  
Fax: 661.287.5855  
www.structuralconsulting.com  
E-mail: info@structuralconsulting.com



**Geotechnical  
Stabilization, Inc.**

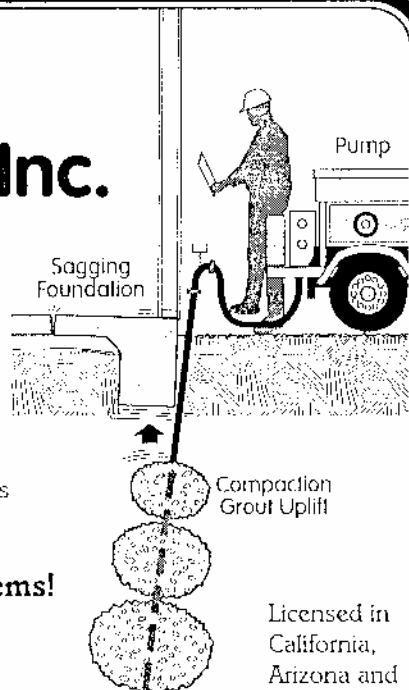
Specializing in Ground Improvement  
techniques including ;  
Compaction Grouting, Chemical Grouting,  
Lense Grouting and Pressgrout Piles.

- In Situ Densification of Soils
- Controlled Lifting of Structures
- Water Shut off
- Soil Solidification
- Soil Reinforcement
- Underpinning of Structures
- Epoxy Grouting

**Call today- Let us help solve your Soil problems!**

**(760)489-6696**

1558 Sterling Court, Escondido, CA 92029-1208



Licensed in  
California,  
Arizona and  
Nevada



GILES EXPLORATION SERVICES

**Specializing in  
Professional Drilling Services  
For  
Southern California's  
*Geotechnical/Environmental  
Consultants***

All crews are 40hr hazmat certified  
Reliable-efficient  
With 25 plus years experienced  
Currently employing  
CME 45 and CME 75  
Always-competitive rates

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER  
10% DISCOUNT FOR ALL NEW CLIENTS\***

For more information/questions/scheduling  
Please contact Rich Koester/Carl Schrenk at

***(714) 336-5778 or (714) 779-0052***

*\* one discount per client*

# Do your boots get dirty?

Project/Senior Project Geotechnical Engineer  
Project/Senior Project Geologist

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.

Please email your resume to:  
[HR@leightongeo.com](mailto:HR@leightongeo.com)  
or send to Human Resources in our  
corporate office

17781 Cowan  
Irvine, CA 92614

[www.leightongeo.com](http://www.leightongeo.com)



## 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.

#### Remolded and/or Undisturbed:

Consolidation  
Consolidation Plus Time Rate  
Direct Shear  
Residual Shear  
Expansion  
Expansion Index  
Grain Size (Full Sieve Set)

Hydrometer Analysis  
Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, Shrinkage Limit  
Moisture/Density (undisturbed)  
Maximum Density  
Sand Equivalent  
Specific Gravity (soil and rock),  
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.

## *Is The Ground Letting Your Project Down?*



### MOORE & TABER



**Geotechnical  
Constructors**

*Serving the geotechnical and  
construction industry with  
creative solutions  
for over 30 years...*

Compaction Grouting  
Chemical Grouting  
Permeation Grouting  
Liquefaction Mitigation  
Stone Columns  
Underpinning

Toll-Free:  
1-866-779-7001 or 1-800-991-2472  
Web: [www.mooreandtaber.com](http://www.mooreandtaber.com)  
Email: [info@mooreandtaber.com](mailto:info@mooreandtaber.com)



**ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION**  
**PUBLICATION ORDER FORM**

**Ordered By/Shipping Address:**

**Mail Order Form To:**

<b>NAME</b>		AEG Southern California Section, Publications Chairperson
<b>ADDRESS</b>		C/O Petra Geotechnical, Inc.
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP</b>		3185-A Airway Avenue Costa Mesa, California 92626
<b>PHONE</b>		<b>Attention: Brian Villalobos</b> Phone (714) 549-8921 (Inquiries only, orders must be mailed with payment)

TITLE / DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
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		

**DELIVERY CHARGES ARE \$3.50 FOR THE FIRST BOOK,  
\$1.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK**

SUBTOTAL	
DELIVERY	
<b>TOTAL ORDER</b>	