

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2004

**There will be no meeting this month.
Have a Great Summer and Productive Field Season!**

Dear Southern California Members of AEG,

Although there is no meeting this July, this newsletter includes several important items for your review and consideration.

1. President Simon has issued a call for action to implement the association's new strategic plan. We are actively looking for volunteers to help take on the various programs that are part of both the short- and long-term goals of the AEG.
2. There is an ongoing discussion as to whether or not we should adopt the title of Professional Geologists (PG) rather than Registered Geologists (RG), a change that the Board of Geologists and Geophysicists is proposing. I have received comments both in favor and against this change. Some of these comments are reproduced herein for your information. I would appreciate feedback from you regarding this.
3. The term of your current officers is coming to a close. Matt Hawley, our current Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect, is in the process of putting together a slate of new volunteers. If you would like to become more active in AEG and become an officer, please contact him (his phone number and e-mail address are listed to the left for your convenience). Our August newsletter will include a ballot with the proposed candidates with a write-in option. We are also looking for volunteers to chair several committees, including field trips, short courses, and publications. This is a very rewarding way of giving back to your profession, not to mention making new friends!
4. We already have lined up speakers for the upcoming months. Dr. David Jackson with the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) will be talking to our group on August 10th. His talk will be on earthquake predictions, earthquake studies, and limits on earthquake size. Make sure to mark your calendar!

See you next month.
Tania Gonzalez, Section Chair

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The RG vs PG debate:

In our June newsletter, Buzz Spellman summarized the last meeting of the Board of Geologists and Geophysicists. Among the items discussed at the April board meeting, was the issue of changing the title of RG to PG. Buzz's summary of that topic is reproduced below:

RG vs. PG: There was a heated discussion on changing the title Registered Geologist (RG) to Professional Geologist (PG), to be amended into Figueroa's SB 1914. This all started at the December 5, 2003 Board meeting when they unanimously voted to pursue changing "Registered Geologist" to "Professional Geologist" everywhere in the Board's Statute and Regulations."

SoCal section AEG position is to keep the RG title. A change to PG would be confusing, as this title is already in use by the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG), founded in 1963 to promote the profession of geology. For the record, AEG was founded in 1957 and the Geology Registration Board in 1969. According to AIPG it "is the only national organization that certifies the competence and ethical conduct of geological scientists in all branches of the science". **This certification is obtained without examination.** From my experience, the title CPG was misused by a consultant on a major civil engineering project in California hoping to circumvent registration required by examination. The person was caught, reprimanded and told not to consult on geologic matters in California until the RG examination is passed, which was never done to my knowledge. Further, the turmoil of changing business cards, letterheads, legislative articles etc. is mind-boggling. The Board believes that a 5-year change-over period should handle this quagmire. SoCal section strongly disagrees with this, and the name change.

The upshot from this discussion is to have the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) prepare a memo on the pros and cons of RG vs. PG. The intent is to put the memo on the internet. TAC will assemble opinions from all replying geologists registered in California and have TAC report results to the Board ASAP. The next TAC meeting is July 30, 2004, 21 days after the Board meeting. Some help.

In response to Buzz's comments, we received the following letter from Robert Larson:

Tania and Matthew,

I wanted to express my displeasure with the Southern California Section's support for retaining the R.G. designation for geologist licensure in California, as reported in the last section newsletter by Mr. Spellman. The reasoning that "A change to PG would be confusing, as

this title is already in use by the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG),..." is unsupportable in light of the fact that 29 states use the P.G. designation, in that AIPG's designation is CPG, not PG, in that AIPG has informed its members that they are to use the designation in states that have licensure with the identifier AIPG (e.g. CPG-AIPG). California and Oregon are the only two states that use the RG designation. When presented with this information, the Geology Licensing Board voted to make the change to PG in the revised act that was written a few years ago. It appears that the Board now has institutional memory loss owed to changes in personnel. Unfortunately the revised act was defeated by the Registered Environmental Assessors (REA) through the OEHHA. The real confusion is that REA's are also "registered", are issued a number, and have a stamp, but are not licensed. By retaining the RG designation we equate ourselves with them, and not with Professional Engineers (PE).

I request that you reconsider this position, and that you support the change to using PG.

Regards,

Robert A. Larson
Member SCS-AEG

Other reasons that Mr. Larson has given in support of the change include:

- 1) National recognition of our profession. We need one banner, one recognition of what we are. We went to ASBOG as one step in this process. There are currently 29 states and one territory that license geologists in one form or another. From the compilation off of the ASBOG web site, you can see California is not a leader in this matter. We are out of date and synch with our fellow geologists in the rest of the nation. Let us unite!!
- 2) Unity and parity with the Engineers. We could benefit from the excellent marketing that engineers have derived from the PE designation. They are professionals, we are merely registered. By tying ourselves to their type of designation, we instantly help our marketing efforts and thus our bottom line. Appearances do count!

Comments in favor of keeping the RG designation are similar to those provided by Buzz Spellman in his original write-up and are therefore not reproduced here. What is your opinion?



ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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David B. Simon, President

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June 25, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

Hello and I hope everyone is having a busy and prosperous field season.

I am writing to update you on the status of our recently adopted Strategic Plan, Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Values Statement. The June issue of *AEG News* will be arriving soon. I respectfully request that you take a few minutes and read the first three articles, beginning with *Into Action – A Mandate from the Membership* (“Message from the President”), *AEG Board of Directors Adopts Mission, Values, and Vision Statements*, and *AEG Board of Directors Approves Strategic Plan*.

The President’s Message explains the various processes that were implemented to arrive at our new Mission, Values, and Vision Statements, and the Strategic Plan. The subsequent articles present the final Strategic Plan and Mission, Values, and Vision Statements. This is a momentous time for our Association; we now have a well-defined vision, an ultimate destination, and a road map to guide us.

Your participation defined the direction AEG is going. Over 40 percent of the membership responded to the strategic planning survey, including over 1,700 written comments. You told us what you want AEG to be, and we listened.

Being an organization that actively supports our members and our profession on a continuing basis in a changing world is now our defining ideal. The Mission and Strategic Plan demonstrate your leadership’s commitment to guide AEG in becoming more responsive to its members and playing a stronger role in advancing the profession.

In addition to these articles in *AEG News*, we are adding the new Mission & Values to AEG’s web site in a prominent location. You will also see on the web site a new banner that will inform you about AEG’s Strategic Plan and the *Mandate from the Membership* that created this plan. In the near future, you will begin getting a series of communications reporting ongoing progress in implementing the Strategic Plan.

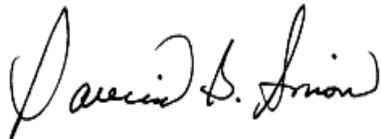
The Strategic Plan is ambitious, but realistic; a plan that can certainly be implemented over the next three years. Your participation defined the direction AEG is going. Now we need your participation in moving in that direction – for ourselves as individuals, for our Association, and

for our profession. Remember that AEG is a member-based (volunteer) organization with a small paid professional staff. Successful implementation of AEG's Strategic Plan will be contingent on us, AEG's members.

I ask that you please review the plan and see where your knowledge, experience, and interests lead you to participate. Then let us know when and how you would like to help in fulfilling AEG's vision for the future.

Best Regards,

AEG

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David B. Simon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.

David Simon
President
(dbsimon@att.net)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Allan E. Seward

Allan E. Seward Engineering Geology, Inc. (AESEGI) is an established company for over 26 years with an office in the City of Santa Clarita. AESEGI now employs a current staff of approximately 22, which includes Registered Geotechnical and Civil Engineers, Certified Engineering Geologists, Staff Engineers and Geologists, Laboratory and Field Technicians as well as our office support staff.

We are currently seeking a staff/project-level geotechnical engineer and a soil technician to join our professional team to perform geotechnical investigations in Northern Los Angeles County and adjoining cities. We are interested in dynamic and motivated individuals with the leadership skills to grow within an expanding operation. We offer an excellent compensation package.

Please send resume to:

Dharmesh Amin, Allan E. Seward engineering Geology, Inc., 27825 Smyth Drive, Valencia, CA 91355.
(Fax) 661-294 0833, Email: Damin@SewardGeo.com.

Ninyo & Moore (7-04)

Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants has an immediate opening for Staff and Sr. Staff Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers in their San Diego and Irvine, CA offices. Please send your resume to Carol Price at Ninyo & Moore, 475 Goddard, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92618, fax (949) 753-7071.

Immediate openings exist for Geotechnical Engineers and Geologists and a Senior Technical Marketing Associate in their San Diego office. Submit resumes to our Corporate office: Ninyo & Moore, 5710 Ruffin Road, San Diego, California 92123, Attention: Ms. Margot A. Graves (EOE) www.ninyoandmoore.com

American Geotechnical (7-04)

American Geotechnical a twenty year old geotechnical consulting firm is seeking mid to sr level CEG's to join our growing team. We have great salary and benefits package based on experience. Master preferred. Excellent written and verbal skills required. 5 years of Construction and Forensic experience a minimum. Please e-mail Langenwj@amgt.com plain text only or contact me at 714/685-3907x234 to find out more about this great opportunity.

Jennifer langenwalter, Client Services Director, American Geotechnical 714/685-3900

Geomatrix/Accolo

Accolo, a community helping each other find jobs and people for jobs, has been asked to help fill this job. To apply or refer someone you know, please go to:

<http://www.accolo.com/webapp/orion/public/ReferApplyJob.jsp?ID1=`enexy>

We are seeking a Project Geologist/Hydrogeologist, for work on groundwater supplies; characterizing soil and groundwater conditions for site cleanup and redevelopment at a former industrial facility; or contributing to two wastewater expansion projects at a potato-processing facility in Argentina.

Geomatrix is a mid-sized, employee-owned firm with about 300 people in offices throughout the U.S. and Canada. As a project team geologist/hydrogeologist based in Costa Mesa, California, your first assignments will prove your adaptability as you supervise drilling, sample soil and groundwater, test aquifers, and analyze and interpret data. In the field, you will exercise judgment as a project manager, scoping out project parameters, selecting sub-contractors, assigning staff and overseeing the entire field program. In house, you will analyze data and report your findings to clients and regulatory agencies. Working with an upwardly mobile organization that fosters continuing education for its people, you will not just sharpen your existing skills but broaden them significantly.

Jerry Bires, Accolo Consultant, 415-785-7833, x209, jbires@accolo.com

Provost and Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. (7-04)

The ideal candidate would have a BS in geologic science, MS, preferably in hydrogeology. 3-5 years experience, knowledge of range of modeling tools in Quantitative Risk Assessment . Understanding of regulatory environment, chemistry background and registered Geologist/Hydrogeologist. Broad based duties may include preparation of cost estimates, workplans and permits; scheduling and oversight of utility locating, geophysics, excavation, drillers, and construction subcontractors; geologic and hydrogeologic interpretation from soil borings, excavations, trenches and monitor wells; installation of groundwater and vadose zone wells; sampling of groundwater, soils, and soil gases; remediation feasibility testing, design, construction, and implementation; data analysis and report preparation; and project and budget management.

Compensation: salary commensurate with qualifications. Great benefit package including 401(k), ESOP, medical, vision, dental, and more. Refer to the Provost & Pritchard website for additional information about Provost & Pritchard. Interested candidates should submit resumes to jbazarian@ppeng.com.

Subsurface Designs (5-04)

Positions Available for Entry Level and Project Level Geologists. SubSurface Designs, Inc., an established Los Angeles geotechnical engineering firm, is seeking Entry Level and Project Level Geologists. Part-time and full-time positions available. The right qualified, independent and hard-working individual will be offered an excellent salary, profit sharing and benefit package commensurate with their experience. Equal Opportunity Employer.

SubSurface Designs, Inc. Attn: Mark Triebold
 12872 Foothill Blvd.
 Sylmar, CA 91342
 818-898-1595 (office), 818-898-4003 (facsimile)
mark@subsurfacedesigns.com

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