



ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS Southern California Section

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

NEWSLETTER – April 2005

Officers

Chair- Matthew Hawley, mhawley@lqcgeo.com, (805) 579-3434

Vice Chair- Charles Nestle, cnestle@ladpw.org, (626) 458-4923

Treasurer- Brian Villalobos, bvillalobos@petra-inc.com, (714) 549-8921

Secretary- Rosalind Munro, rmunro@lqcgeo.com, (949) 650-1018

- Meeting Date:** **Tuesday, April 12, 2005**
- Location:** Steven's Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
- Time:** Social Hour: 6:00 PM; Dinner: 7:00 PM; Presentations: 7:45 PM
- Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564, or email Brian Villalobos, by **Noon, Monday, April 11**
- Cost:** \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 at the door; \$15 for students with valid student ID.
- Presenter:** Thomas Heaton
- Topic:** *"How will high-rise buildings respond in very large earthquakes?"*



Speaker Biographical Information:

Thomas Heaton is a Professor of Engineering Seismology at the California Institute of Technology with a joint position in the Division of Engineering and Applied Science and the Division of Geological and Planetary Science. He was a Research Geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in their Pasadena Office from 1979 until July 1995, at which time he was the USGS Project Chief of the Southern California Seismic Network. He was the Scientist in Charge of the USGS Pasadena office from 1985 until October of 1992 and he was also the Coordinator of the USGS earthquake program in southern California. He received a Meritorious Service award from the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1995 and he is a past President of the Seismological Society of America. He has written numerous research papers in the fields of earthquake ground motions, earthquake source physics, earthquake hazards in the Pacific Northwest, earthquake warning systems, and tidal triggering of earthquakes. He received a B.S. in Physics from Indiana University, and a Ph.D. in Geophysics from the California Institute of Technology.

Chair Column

(by Matthew Hawley)

Hello Southern California Section!

Licensing

The April 30th agenda for the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) indicates a review of the California Specific Examination (CSE). Specifically, the CSE is being considered for elimination, an idea supported by BGG Executive Officer Paul Sweeney.

In light of this motion, I sent around a crude questionnaire to get a sense of what the membership thinks of this proposal. An overwhelming number indicated they did not want to see the CSE get the axe. Further, many individuals came up with ideas of their own as how to improve, not eliminate, the CSE. The approximate 60 responses I received indicated more than anything that the profession as a whole is not ready for CSE elimination until a much better case is brought to light by the BGG or anyone else who is recommending elimination of the exam.

I have prepared a letter to forward to the BGG and the Licensing Committee that indicates our Section's opinions and my conclusions to the responses of the questionnaire. I will post the letter on our web site.

New Chapters

It is clear that many members do not even attempt to attend Section meetings due to location, even if that location roams from time-to-time. Our Section is by far the largest of any Section of AEG, composed of over 425 members, yet only a small handful (usually 25-35) show up at the meetings.

In light of this, I thought it might serve most of our members better if local Chapters were formed to bring a sense of community to the Association. The Chapters will report to the Southern California Section. The current concept is to form a Chapter in the Santa Barbara/Ventura Area, Inland Empire and San Diego areas. Many people have responded that they are very interested in this and have volunteered their time and efforts into making this a reality.

So far, the Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter (SBVC) and Inland Empire Chapter (IEC) are underway. Currently, **Robert Urban** Robert.Urban@URSCorp.com is leading a group for SBVC with **Rick Gundry** Rick.Gundry@Verizon.net leading for IEC. Although I have not yet received confirmation from Headquarters, it is my understanding that more than the minimum number of members has signed petitions to form the Chapters. The Section will help these Chapters during their infancy, but once they can walk, off they go!!

Each Chapter will be composed of at least a Chapter Chair and Chapter Treasurer. Other Officers and positions can come online as they are needed and determined by the Chapter. A few San Diegoans have also shown interest and things may be moving forward there (If there are additional San Diegoans that are interested in participating in Chapter formation, just write to me so I can forward you to the other interested parties).

The basic idea behind the Chapter is to provide services to the membership by providing you with options – an option of attending a Section or Chapter meeting (of course you can always attend both). You might as well get something more than a quarterly newsletter for \$100+ per year.

I hope many of you that do not attend the Section meetings can make the local meetings. It will be an opportunity for you to listen and share your ideas and thoughts of the bustling business in your local area and the items that are of concern to you.

Professional Speakers

Last month, the seemingly incessant rain was dominating discussion around the water cooler. This month, it appears to be clearer weather, March Madness and Opening Day. However, there still remains a void that I would like our organization to fill – finding “Public Commentators” who can address the media well in response to natural hazards.

During the rainy times last month, I was interviewed by a southern Cal paper for an item about slope stability. Although I believe I fared well, I would have preferred to pass the job to another. Ideally, I'd like to have a person stationed in the San Diego region, Orange County/LA region and a third in the Ventura/Santa Barbara region, or if only one person steps up, that person for the whole SoCal area. Our Commentators could provide information quickly and efficiently to the media, while bringing much needed attention to our profession and organization.

I believe such a system would be an asset to the “public welfare” element of AEG and would be viewed as community involvement/ community out-reach; a much-needed element in what I believe will help establish the geosciences more prominently in the minds of Californians and also our local legislators.

If anyone is willing to step up and take this on, please let me know [-www.mhawley@lgcgeo.com](mailto:www.mhawley@lgcgeo.com).

CCGO

The time is now for us to decide if we should remain a part of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO). At our last meeting, a compromise was presented to the attending members regarding the CCGO debate. First, CCGO would no longer be able to retain the services of our lobbyist (**Judy Wolen**) due to potential conflict of interest (unless they hired her directly). Second, CCGO would increase their level of communication with our Section and third, CCGO would seek out

the aid of other member organizations instead of relying heavily on AEG. In return we would pay our dues into that organization, and support them in common interests mostly of a legislative nature.

Please attend the up-coming meeting to listen and possibly discuss this current set of affairs.

Publications

Again, **Joe Cota** found all our old publications. The publications will be catalogued and reviewed by the Officers to determine which should be re-printed for publication. We will let you know what items have been chosen and become available for purchase. **Dave Seymour** is taking on this task and we'll let you know when it is completed.

Seminar

Again, I'm still hoping to put together a short course/seminar for our members, and there appears to be a ray of hope in this area. The seminar would focus on seismic issues. I will let you know as this develops.

If you or someone you know has another topic of interest, please let me know.

Field Trip

We have a field trip planned for April 16th and the seats are filling fast. The field trip will start in Santa Clarita and end at La Conchita. Buses will shuttle you throughout the day. For additional details, please see the write-up by **Kim Bishop** in this month's Newsletter for details or check-out the website at www.aegsc.org.

That's it for now. As always, please stay active with **YOUR** organization, and ...
pay your dues.

Cheers – Matthew Hawley

AEG FIELD TRIP

Last Call for the AEG Southern California Section 2005 Field Trip on Saturday, April 16, 7:30-5:30. The trip will begin at the Park and Ride parking area just east of the Antelope Valley Freeway at the Golden Valley Road exit in Santa Clarita. We'll have some coffee & doughnuts while they last and busses will leave the parking area at 8:00 AM sharp. We will generally follow along the Santa Clarita River Valley to PCH making some interesting stops along the way, including at least one *environmental* stop to observe some "new-school" post construction BMPs (best management practices) used to reduce pollution in storm water runoff. Engineering geology, drinks and good times will fill in the gaps. The trip includes lunch at the top of La Conchita, the primary destination of the trip.

Cost of the trip will be \$60/person including lunch, drinks, and road log. There is space for a limited number of students with current photo ID's at \$25/student, but call in ASAP to get this deal! For further information, please contact Kim Bishop at kbishop@calstatela.edu or (323) 343-2409.

AEG Letter Opposing the Elimination of the California Specific Examination

April 7, 2005

The Honorable Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer

Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A
Sacramento, CA 95833

Subject: Opposition to the Elimination of the California Specific Examination

Dear Executive Officer Sweeney,

The Association of Engineering Geologists, Southern California Section (AEGSoCal) opposes any plan to eliminate the California Specific Examination (CSE).

As you know, AEGSoCal represents the interests of environmental and engineering geologists in the southern third of the State of California. AEGSoCal opposes the elimination of the CSE because our membership has indicated there is not a compelling argument for that change and that California geology is special and unique, its practice can affect the safety and welfare of the public and it should be demonstrated as learned before one can practice in this Great State.

The conclusions discussed in this letter are the result of a simple survey (attached) sent to our membership regarding the CSE. This survey was prepared in order to assess the concerns and opinions of our members with respect to this issue. Over 60 geo-science professionals from Mammoth Lakes to San Diego responded.

Overall, the majority of our membership believes the CSE should not only be retained, but improved, by riding the exam of “geo-trivia”, i.e., “What is the State fossil” and providing more questions specific to California’s laws and regulations, seismic hazard zones, earthquake fault zones, codes and geology. Many members believe that providing such relevant questions would eliminate the need for a longer exam, which was one of the questions posed.

With respect to being “Trade Restrictive” concerning Out-of-State geologists, our membership believes that although geology can be learned “along the way” they stated the CSE is a valuable tool because it compels geologists to get up to speed on many State specific geo-science issues. Many members also stated that studying for the exam establishes a database such that resources are available or can be readily found for future reference. In essence, most respondents believe the exam is not trade restrictive and should be taken by any geologist who wishes to practice in this State. In conjunction, many professionals also thought the exam should be provided more than once a year because the current format is too restrictive to those that fail.

Finally, another item of discussion was the possibility of a Study Manual, prepared by the State or perhaps referenced by the State that a person could easily obtain in order to have a clearer picture of what would be included on the test. Many members believe this is a fine way to introduce people to what is considered valuable to having a minimum understanding of California geology. One respondent extended this concept to include that the BGG could offer the exam on-line. It would force the BGG to write thoughtful exams because the concept of Google exposes the “California State fossil” variety of question as worthless.

Based on the responses to our survey, it seems clear that if the BGG is seriously considering eliminating the CSE, the BGG should provide the current profession with compelling arguments that would support that decision, because practicing professionals who responded to our survey believe California is special and unique, and that there are many options for positive change to the exam instead of a ‘stay or go only’ solution.

Written by SoCal Chair Matthew Hawley

Section Business Donation

- **Platinum - \$500**
- **Gold - \$250**
- **Silver - \$125**

Company receives a line in the section newsletter giving their name or their company name under the appropriate metallic heading.

National Business Donation

- **Platinum - \$1,000**
- **Gold - \$500**
- **Silver - \$250**

Company name, address and contact information are presented in AEG News and section receives 10% of donation. A national donation does not yield a line in our local section newsletter.

Company & Employment Advertising

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
▪ Business Card	\$10	\$100
▪ ¼ Page	\$20	\$200
▪ ½ Page	\$35	\$350
▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500

- The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month’s newsletter is Friday, April 29th.

YEAR 2005 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members 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 treasurer, Brian Villalobos.

2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For those of you who have not yet renewed (**the deadline was November 1**), are unsure about your membership status, or did not receive your membership dues statement, please contact AEG Headquarters at www.aegweb.org. You can renew your membership online. Please update your membership if you wish to continue to receive future issues of the newsletter.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

Lawson & Associates
Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.

Lawson & Associates Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.

2045 Royal Avenue, Ste. 125
 Simi Valley, CA 93065
 Tele: (805) 579-3434 Fax: (805) 579-3435
 Email: kesmond@lqcgeo.com

1319 Calle Avanzado
 San Clemente, CA 92673
 Tele: (949) 369-6141 Fax: (949) 369-6142
 Email: info@lqcgeo.com

Website: www.lqcgeo.com

LGC is looking for dynamic individuals to join our team and work on some of southern California'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 inquiries will be considered in the utmost confidence. We look forward to hearing from you.



Petra Geotechnical is currently seeking experienced geotechnical engineers, geologists, environmental scientists and soils technicians in our Costa Mesa, Santa Clarita, Murrieta and San Diego offices. We offer competitive salaries and excellent benefits. Please contact Linda Becker, Human Resources Manager, at 714/549-8921 or submit your resume by email to lbecker@petra-inc.com

Davis Earth & Materials, Inc., a San Diego based geotechnical and materials testing firm, is looking for **Geotechnical Engineers and Geologists** to assist with high-rise, commercial, and public agency projects. We are a small company with remarkable growth potential for ambitious individuals anxious to help the company grow. We will consider staff to senior level candidates, 2 years to 20+ years. Registration is preferred but not required.

Please Fax or Email resume with cover letter to: Human Resources, 858-292-7570, info@dem-inc.net.

Hu Associates, Inc. a geotechnical/environmental consulting firm in Santa Fe Springs, CA since 1979. HAI is currently seeking a Certified Engineering Geologist with strong background in hillside development, and good project management, as well as experience in Los Angeles County. Position responsibilities include soil/geologic investigation, fault investigation, collecting field data, slope stability evaluation, percolation studies and construction inspection, report writing and client communication.

The right qualified individual will be offered an excellent salary; company sponsored insurance program and bonuses. If you are interested in becoming a part of continuing growth at a well-established and evolving firm, please Fax resume to: (562) 698-5771 or Email: huassocinc@aol.com

MACTEC is a leading consulting firm providing engineering, environmental and remedial construction services to public and private clients worldwide. From concept to construction, compliance to cost management, MACTEC's engineering and science experts help our clients achieve success through uncompromising quality and cost-effective, results-driven strategies. We are currently looking for an Engineering Geologist in our Los Angeles office.

Position Description:

The duties of the Geologist are related to the specialized field of engineering geology, and also related to support work for the geotechnical engineering and environmental staff. Specialized investigations are conducted consisting of geologic-seismic hazard evaluations, preparation of geotechnical documents to be used in preparation of environmental impact reports, landslide investigations, slope stability investigations, fault rupture hazard investigations, and ground motion studies.

Responsibilities include:

- Geologic Mapping
- Logging of Explorations
- Bucket auger drilling equipment
- Continuous core drilling equipment
- Hollow-stem auger drilling equipment
- Rotary-wash drilling equipment
- Down-hole logging of borings
- Geologic-Seismic Hazard Evaluations
- Preparation of Geologic Maps and Cross-sections, draft reports and letters, documentation of field work and preparation of geologic exploration logs
- Geologic/geotechnical data entry into spreadsheets

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Geology or closely related field
- Some graduate work preferred
- 0-2 years
- Word and Excel skills
- Reading maps skills
- Basic use of brunton compass
- Basic field mapping
- Position requires walking on slopes
- Must pass drug test and background check
- Must have satisfactory driving record per Company policy

Please submit resume to Amy Cook at amcook@mactec.com, reference job code 1251.

Hargis + Associates, Inc., a San Diego based consulting firm specializing in hydrogeology and engineering, currently has opportunities in our San Diego, California office.

We are presently looking to fill the following positions:

Hydrogeologist/GIS Environmental Scientist: Candidate would have a B.S. Degree in Geology or related field, and expertise in ArcView GIS and related applications. Ideal candidate would have experience with sampling, well installation, aquifer test analysis, and/or groundwater modeling. Position will be based in San Diego, and may require some travel and field work. OSHA 40-hour training preferred. Entry level candidates with a strong GIS background will be considered.

Staff Hydrogeologist: Candidate would have a B.S. Degree in Geology, and 3 to 5 years relevant experience, including experience with soils and groundwater sampling, well installation, work plan and report preparation, task management, cost estimating and scheduling. Candidate should possess strong organizational, writing and presentation skills. Registered Geologist (RG), or ability to obtain within two years, groundwater modeling experience, and Masters Degree is a plus. Position will be based in San Diego, and will require some travel and field work. OSHA 40-hour training required.

Hargis + Associates offer competitive salaries and benefits, and a challenging work atmosphere. Hargis + Associates is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To learn more about Hargis + Associates, please visit our website at: www.hargis.com. No phone calls please. Qualified candidates should send resumes, along with a cover letter summarizing experience and salary requirements to:

Hargis + Associates, Inc.
Attention: Kim Stransky
2365 Northside Drive, Suite C-100
San Diego, CA 92108

Positions Available for Entry Level Geologists & Field Technicians

SubSurface Designs, Inc., an established Los Angeles geotechnical engineering firm, is seeking Entry Level Geologists and Field Technician/Deputy Inspectors. 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.

For consideration, fax or email your resume in confidence to:

SubSurface Designs, Inc.
Attn: Mark Triebold
12872 Foothill Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342

818-898-1595 (office)
818-898-4003 (facsimile)
mark@subsurfacedesigns.com

AEG Southern California Section
J. Relyea
Earth Resources, Inc.
18302 Sierra Highway, #102
Santa Clarita, CA 91306