



ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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

NEWSLETTER – February 2005

Officers

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

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, February 8, 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, February 7**
Cost: **\$30 per person with reservations, \$35 at the door; \$15 for students with valid student ID.**
Presenter: **Richard C. Slade**
Topic: **Regional Hydrogeologic Conditions in the Alluvial and Saugus Formation Aquifer Systems, Santa Clarita Valley, Los Angeles County**

Abstract:

Since 1986, Richard Slade has been involved in defining and developing the groundwater resources for the various municipal-supply purveyors within the Santa Clarita Valley of northern Los Angeles County. Two principal aquifer systems are recognized: the alluvial system along the main reach of the Santa Clara River and its major tributaries on the north and south sides of the river; and the Saugus Formation which underlies the alluvial aquifer system and which is also exposed on the adjoining

hillsides of the Valley.

Underlying the Saugus Formation and also exposed at higher elevations on the hillsides which adjoin the Valley are a series of geologically older, well consolidated and/or cemented sedimentary rocks which are not considered a part of the local groundwater reservoir.

The presentation will describe the various RCS groundwater projects in the Valley over the years that have helped define the groundwater basin and its two

aquifer systems. Important changes in the database on water wells, water levels, water quality, and electric logs, etc., will be identified. Slides will be presented to illustrate: The Valley-wide surface geology and faults; key characteristics of each aquifer system; historic groundwater elevations in key wells in the two aquifers; groundwater flow directions; thicknesses of the aquifers; and groundwater quality.

Speaker Biographical Information:

Richard Slade has a BA degree in Geology from UCLA (January 1966) and an MS Degree in Engineering Geology from USC (1974). He is a Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist in California, and is also licensed as a Geologist in Arizona and Idaho.

Mr. Slade began his career in 1967 in the Geology Section of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where he worked on groundwater issues relating to the then-proposed tunnels and/or reservoirs for the State Water Project, and also worked as Resident Geologist for a few large diameter tunnels being constructed by tunnel boring machines.

Between 1970 and 1983, Mr. Slade worked as a hydrogeologist and engineering geologist for Geotechnical Consultants, Inc., and was responsible for most of the groundwater resource development projects being conducted by the firm over those years.

Mr. Slade founded Richard C. Slade & Associates LLC, Consulting Groundwater Geologist, where he continues as President and Principal Groundwater Geologist. The main RCS office is in North Hollywood, and there is a satellite office in the Napa Valley.

RCS provides consulting services to A&Es, attorneys, cities, water districts, vineyards and wineries in various aspects of groundwater resources. Over the years, RCS has sited and designed hundreds of water wells for municipal-supply and irrigation-supply purposes, has conducted several hundred pumping (aquifer) tests, has provided expert witness services in groundwater and in groundwater contamination, and continues to help its clients in developing and maintaining their local groundwater resources.

Chair Column (by Matthew Hawley)

Hello Southern California Section!! Boy have a lot of Legislative changes been proposed for our Great State.

As is reported below from Section Vice Chair **Charles Nestle** who has attended various meetings on our Section's behalf, the Governor has issued his revised plan for a review by the Little Hoover Commission, the commission established to review any fundamental changes to how the State is formatted and run. Since the plan was far different than that reviewed by us previously, new letters need to be prepared and delivered quickly.

In general, the revisions the Governor made to the CPR plan are the elimination of all geologically related Boards and Commissions and transferring their duties into various Departments. The effect of this proposed change is unclear, but through the fog we believe it is a worse condition than that which currently exists because the Departments will not be able to respond in a timely manner, the departments will likely not be composed of professional geologists, and the transfer will dilute the appreciation and relevance of our field. Further, we have now heard that the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists is considering eliminating the California specific portion of the PG exam. Simpler is better??

The letter prepared on behalf of our Section is provided herein and will also be posted on our website, www.aegsc.org. I have also included herein a letter I prepared indicating my personal opinions to the Little Hoover Commission. (Please, I know there are typos and errors in the letter so don't report to me my mistakes; several already have.) I have included both letters such that **YOU** might have the chance to review them, see how they are prepared and should you feel the urge, write your own letter to express your position to the proposal.

As the Section believes the proposed changes are not beneficial to our profession, we are on a campaign to have as many letters as we can from individuals within our field, and especially our clients, hit Sacramento. You can send them to the Little Hoover Commission as indicated in the referenced letters and also to **Senator Liz Figueroa**, who has supported the Board for Geologist and Geophysicists (BGG) for many years, and now heads the Government Modernization, Efficiency and Accountability Committee. This committee is composed of 10 Senators that will review what Government should do, the limits of reform, how government should be run and responsible legislative review. If you send a letter to Senator Figueroa, please indicate to Cc the other committee members.

To catch you up, the following is provided so you can keep things as straight as possible, or at least as straight as we know them.

1. Governor established California Performance Review Committee (CPR) to evaluate California's current structure and propose recommendations for reform.
2. CPR Committee submitted its report for review by the public.
3. The Governor submitted his plan for government reform (GRP1) to the "Little Hoover" Commission (not the same plan as was previously submitted to the public).
4. The Governor sends GRP1 to the Legislature for consideration and vote, for or against.
5. The "Little Hoover" Commission reviews the plan, listens to public comment and prepares a report in favor or against the proposal to the Legislature, indicating recommendations, if any - where we are now.
6. If approved by the Legislature, Plan is adopted. If not approved, Governor revises plan and submits to Legislature again, *or* pushes for a Special Election and takes his plan to the public - where we think it's headed.
7. Back and forth review could go on for some time. Other sub-committees may be involved that we are currently unaware.

Of interest, the BGG recently survived another Sunset Review by the Legislature. Although the Legislature reviewed, considered and approved the continuation of the BGG, the Governor must sign the legislation to keep the Board active. It is uncertain if he will sign with the Review. Should he not sign, the BGG will fizzle into oblivion and the functions of the Board will be transferred to the Department of Conservation.

Interesting stuff folks!! We will try our best to keep you informed.

Other

Don't forget that we are planning a field trip for the April/May time frame. Keep an eye out for exact dates and plan to attend. Field Trip Committee Chair **Kim Bishop** is still putting together the field trip along the LA/Ventura Coast and then eastward into a portion of the Transverse Ranges. Kim has requested submittal of abstracts, which I'm sure is getting short-listed. Should you have something you believe might interest our group in this general area please contact Kim through his e-mail at kbishop@exchange.calstatela.edu.

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. Should you have a preference, please contact **Dave Seymour** at dseymour@petra-inc.com to push for your favorites.

Again, I'm still hoping to put together a short course/seminar for our members. This is another great way to produce some income for our section. If you or someone you know has experience with either organizing or at least professing a topic please let me know.

Our web page is constantly being improved. Thanks to **Kerry Cato** (Web Master) and **Roz Munro** (Section Secretary) for their efforts in these changes. Please take a gander.

Dave Bieber, AEG President, has asked yours truly to prepare a motion for the mid-year Board meeting. The topic, roughly: methodology and responsibility for persons and/or Sections who publish unsubstantiated claims. Kiddies, I'll do my best.

Finally, the Education Committee has been renamed to Student Outreach Committee to better reflect the intentions of this group. Should you be interested in helping with this or any other committee, please let me know and we'll get you going.

As always, please stay active with **YOUR** organization, and **pay your dues**.

Cheers – Matthew Hawley

Call for Field Trip Stops and/or Papers

The AEG Southern California Section is tentatively planning an April or May field trip this coming year to the Malibu area and possibly to the Oxnard plain and back through the Fillmore area. If you have any potential engineering geology related field trip stops and/or papers regarding these areas, please contact Kim Bishop at kbishop@calstatela.edu or (323) 343-2409. We are particularly interested in the topics of coastal erosion, landslides, and the Malibu Coast Fault.

San Diego County Science Olympiad

The Patrick Henry High School science department is planning to participate in the San Diego County Science Olympiad on February 5, 2005. This event will be held at Rancho Bernardo High School. We are looking for 4-6 community members who can spend a little time coaching the Science Olympiad student teams in specific project areas. Some of the projects will include identifying and selecting fossils, remote sensing, fermi questions, and practical science (PC Technology, data gathering, etc.). Hours would be kept to a minimum for the community volunteers. It would be a fun event for all involved.

If you are interested, please contact Yvonne Walden, Employer Outreach Specialist, Patrick Henry High School, 619-286-7700 x2216 - ywalden@mail.sandi.net. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated!

A brief summary of the 1/25/05 BGG Meeting provided by Vice-Chair Charles Nestle:

On January 25, 2005 the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists held an Executive Committee meeting to update and expand the Board's response to the Governor's Reorganization Plan 1 (GRP1) in preparation for the Little Hoover Commission (LHC) hearings the following three days. Board members Craig Copelan, Robert Matthews, and William Black; Executive Officer Paul Sweeney; and Board Council Gary Duke were present. Also in attendance were AEG lobbyist Judy Wolen, AEG Sacramento Section Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Chair Marcia Kiese, public member Robert Tepel, and AEG So. Cal. Section vice chair Charles Nestle.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the proposals discussed in the GRP1 and the document's flaws. A one-page summary ("highlights") of the GRP1 is found on the DCA's web site at: http://www.dca.ca.gov/reports/reorganization_plan.htm (the typo is theirs). The entire document can be found at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/reorg/GRP1.pdf> (there are only 16 pages of text – the rest are appendices).

In a nutshell, the Governor claims his reorganization plan is "designed to enhance the accountability, efficiency, and responsiveness of state government." Under this plan the board's existing oversight and regulatory functions would continue to occur and be carried out by the Department of Consumer Affairs. Instead of reporting to a board, board staff and employees would report to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (or the BGG could be transferred to the State Consumer Services Agency [GRP1, Appendix 2]).

An excellent analysis of the flaws of the GRP1 is provided by one of the invited participants of the Little Hoover Commission hearings – the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego (<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/reorg/FellmethJan05.pdf>). What makes their analysis particularly relevant is that since this organization's inception in 1980 they have supported structural reorganization and elimination of California's boards. That they are so strongly against the proposed restructuring plan speaks loudly of the failures of that plan.

Paul Sweeney read a draft letter prepared by the BGG to the Little Hoover Commission, which was followed by a lively discussion of the tone the letter should take and how much information it should include. Two drafts later the letter was voted on and approved by the board members without further comment from the public attendees. Copies of this letter will be available at the February 8 Section meeting.

The Little Hoover Commission advises the Governor and the Legislature as to whether the plan should be accepted or rejected, and they may also provide recommendations for improving and implementing the plan. Since the LHC cannot revise the plan, they must recommend that it be either accepted or rejected, at which point the Legislature reviews the plan written in bill form. The Legislature may then accept or reject the GRP1. If they reject it (which is likely) they may then write their own reorganization legislation for the Governor's signature, or do nothing at all (at which point the Governor will "bring it to the people").



Geologist-in-Training

Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
California Department of Consumer Affairs

Effective January 1, 2005, the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (California Department of Consumer Affairs) is announcing a trainee certification toward the "Professional Geologist" license in the State of California. New legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2004 (SB 1914) allows college graduates with majors in Geology to take the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) "Fundamentals of Geology" exam, which is given once a year on the first Friday of March. Once the graduate passes the exam, s/he will be issued a certificate as a Geologist-in-Training. The ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology examination is the first of three examinations necessary to become licensed in California (the other two are the ASBOG "Practice of Geology" examination and the Board's "California specific" examination). This certification will be a strong qualification for graduates to add to resumes as they conduct a job search. After working with a Professional Geologist for 3 years (BA/BS degree) or 2 years (MA/MS/PhD degree), graduates can apply to take the ASBOG "Practice of Geology" and California-specific exams for licensure as a Professional Geologist in the State of California.

Eligibility: BA/BS degree in Geology. Students graduating in May, August and December 2005 will be eligible to take the exam in 2006.

Registering for the Fundamentals of Geology Exam: Submit application (available at www.geology.ca.gov/examinations/geology/registered_geologist.htm) and official copies of transcripts (must be received directly from the university to the Board) along with a check for \$400 (\$250 to open your file with the licensing board plus \$150 examination fee) to:

Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A
Sacramento, CA 95833-2926

Deadline: The **deadline for the 2006 Exam** is November 23, 2005.

Exam Date: March 3, 2006

The exam will be given in Sacramento and Carson, CA.

Additional Information Contact: Pam Hopper, Examination Coordinator

Department of Consumer Affairs
Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A
Sacramento, CA 95833-2926
(916) 263-2113

geology@dca.ca.gov (e-mail)

www.geology.ca.gov (website)

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
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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 Wednesday, February 23.

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**BLACK & VEATCH**

Black & Veatch, a world-leading engineering, environmental and construction firm, has the following immediate openings in our Irvine, CA office:

Environmental Geologist. Successful candidate will participate in broad range of environmental and hazardous waste studies. Requires degree in Geology, preferably from a University in the western USA, a sound understanding of sedimentary and groundwater geology, zero (0) to 3 years environmental experience, and superior communication skills. Must be physically capable of performing hazardous waste fieldwork. Typical duties include field observation, sample collection and description, supervision of drilling crews, data analysis and report preparation. Overtime and travel for field assignments required.

Civil / Environmental Engineer. Successful candidate will participate in broad range of environmental and hazardous waste projects. Requires degree in Engineering, 3 to 5 years hazardous waste experience, and superior communication skills. Must be physically capable of performing hazardous waste fieldwork. Typical duties include remedial system design, construction oversight, O&M of remediation systems, field observation, sample collection, supervision of drilling crews, data analysis and report preparation. This is an excellent growth position for a "hands-on" engineer. Overtime and travel for field assignments required, typically one week per month.

Black & Veatch offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits and an opportunity for professional and personal growth. Please mail resume to Mike Ploessel, **Black & Veatch**, 6 Venture, Suite 315, Irvine, CA 92618 or e-mail ploesselmr@bv.com. For additional opportunities, visit us at <http://www.bv.com>.

EOE M/F/D/V



Geotechnical • Geologic • Environmental

GeoSoils, Inc. (GSI) is a geotechnical and environmental engineering consulting firm which was founded in 1974. GSI provides services regionally, nationally and internationally, and currently has offices in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. GSI is looking for a project to senior level engineering geologist for our Orange County office. The qualified candidate should have a strong background in hillside development, good project management and marketing skills, as well as experience in Orange County and the Inland Empire. Environmental experience is helpful, but not mandatory. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits, profit sharing/401K plan, etc. Please submit a resume with a cover letter, in confidence, to GeoSoils, Inc., 5741 Palmer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008, or fax to 760.438.5825. EOE. Please visit our website: www.geo soilsinc.com.



Lawson & Associates
Geotechnical Consulting, Inc.

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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.



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Southern California

Certified Engineering Geologist needed for our Pasadena, Van Nuys, and Palmdale offices.
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Earth Systems Southern California, Attn: Mark Russell, GE
2801 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107
Phone: 626-356-0955, Fax: 626-356-0956

Email: mrussell@earthsystems.com



Ninyo & Moore Geotechnical and Environmental Sciences Consultants has an immediate opening for a Principal Geotechnical Engineer or Principal Engineering Geologist to manage the firm's Oakland office. Candidates should be highly motivated with strong technical, organizational and leadership capabilities. Ninyo & Moore is a geotechnical and environmental sciences consulting firm with offices in San Diego, Irvine, Los Angeles, Ontario, Oakland, and San Francisco, California; Las Vegas and Carson City, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona. The firm provides geotechnical, environmental, and materials testing and inspection services to public and private sector clients. Please contact Margot Graves at (510) 633-5640 or mgraves@ninyoandmoore.com (EOE). Our web site is www.ninyoandmoore.com

AEG Southern California Section
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