



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
Southern California Section
"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER – August 2007

Officers

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Visit the Southern California Section Website: www.aegsc.org

Newsletter Editor – Steve Varnell, slvarnell23@hotmail.com

Meeting Date: *****Tuesday, August 14th*****

Location: Steven’s Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, California

Time: 6:00 p.m.-Social Hour; 7:00 p.m.-Dinner; 7:45 p.m.-Presentation

Cost: \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 at the door, \$15 for students with a valid Student ID

*****Reservations:** Please call Jon Relyea at 800-554-3205 or email jon@radiusmaps.net

Speaker: **Mark G. Olson, PGp, PG, CHG, President Advanced Geoscience, Inc.**

Topic: **"Applications of Seismic Reflection, Refraction, and MASW Profiling for Subsurface Geologic Investigations from Lake Elsinore to Hawaii"**

Abstract:

Mark Olson with Advanced Geoscience, Inc. will speak about some interesting applications of seismic reflection, refraction, and MASW profiling his company has recently been involved with. These include fault investigations from Lake Elsinore to Goleta, investigations of subsurface geology for tunneling projects in Solvang and San Francisco, and shear-wave velocity profiling for earthquake response modeling of a new bridge abutment on Hawaii. His discussion will emphasize the geologic interpretation of these seismic profiles (such as, recognition of seismic reflection stratigraphy and structure), current methods of data processing and modeling, and the general resolution and accuracy of these methods for solving subsurface problems in engineering geology. If time permits, Mr. Olson will also discuss anticipated future improvements in near-surface seismic data acquisition and processing.

Speaker:

Mark Olson is President of Advanced Geoscience, Inc. a geophysical consulting firm located in Palos Verdes Estates, California. Mr. Olson has 25+ years experience in subsurface geology and applied geophysics, which includes four years of involvement with subsurface investigations for the construction of the Los Angeles Metro Red Line. He was formerly a senior geophysicist with Mobil Oil Exploration and Producing Services in Dallas, Texas, Project Hydrogeologist with Groundwater Technology, and Senior Geologist/Geophysicist with Dames and Moore in Los Angeles. Mr. Olson received his B.S. in Applied Geophysics from UCLA and completed numerous graduate courses at the University of Texas at Dallas and California State University, Long Beach. He is also a California-Licensed Professional Geophysicist and Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist.

Chair Column

Roz Munro

I hope everyone has been having a good summer – a vacation or at least some time off for holidays.

The 2nd Annual AEG Southern California Section Golf Tournament (proceeds to benefit the Martin L. Stout Fund) was held on Friday, July 13. It was held at the Los Verdes Golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes (a public course). Following the tournament was a catered BBQ at Point Vicente Interpretive Center Park. It was a beautiful setting on the bluff overlooking the Pacific. The food was outstanding, the company better, and apparently beer consumption was OK with applicable authorities. The ultimate view was seeing blue whales spouting on the horizon. Hope you can join us next year.

Call for Memories and Photos – History of the Southern California Section Poster

The Southern California Section plans to exhibit a poster presenting the section's history at the Annual Meeting in September, along with other sections. Our history is special because we were the first, established May 7, 1958 (as the Los Angeles Section), just in front of the Sacramento and San Francisco sections (September, 1958). We need everyone's help reconstructing that history. Any memories, stories, clippings, other documents, or photos you have of the history, special events, special people, meetings, field trips, etc. are desperately needed. You can email, snail mail, phone mail to me this month if possible. We want this to be a really special display. I wasn't around then, so I can't do it

myself. We'll post a list of the past section Chairs on the SoCal website to help jog your memories. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Review of Senate Bill 963

Charles Nestle

The wholly revised SB 963 introduced by Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles) and amended in Assembly on June 25 eliminates the sunset review process that all licensing boards have had to endure since written into law in 1994. This bill creates in its place the *Office of the Consumer Advocate* (OCA) within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). This Office will provide ongoing and continuous review of all boards, and a periodic thorough review only when requested by a member of the Legislature or the chief of the Office. Any request for review requires a detailed description of perceived deficiencies, and public hearings are held by a legislative committee to address the concerns.

Some of the Bill's Major Provisions Include:

- 1) The sunset review process, which, some argue, diverts attention, time, and resources of the Executive Officer and staff away from their core functions, will be eliminated.
- 2) Ongoing and continuous review is defined as a requirement for boards to file quarterly reports to the Office of the Consumer Advocate detailing the board's performance measures and data relating to those measures.
- 3) The proposed review process maintains government transparency by requiring public hearings to address complaints by the Legislature or the chief of the OCA. Complaints must be justified in writing by detailing specific perceived deficiencies, and filed with a standing policy committee of the Legislature. This standing committee then determines if sufficient justification exists to warrant public hearings to address the alleged deficiencies. This bill describes specific expectations of all boards, so the boards know how performance will be measured.
- 4) Board operational information will be required to be placed on the board's web site. This information includes: enforcement action and settlements; meeting minutes (within 10 days of the meeting); quarterly performance reports filed with the Office of the Consumer Advocate; annual reports from each board member and Executive Officer describing the extent to which they achieved goals and objectives for that year, and any goals and objectives they have for the following year. Most of the required information the BGG already has on their web site.
- 5) The Office of the Consumer Advocate will be required to provide annual reports to the chair of the Legislature detailing the number of personnel years assigned to the OCA, the total dollars expended the prior year, the estimated total dollars spent in the current year, the total dollars proposed for appropriation the following year, and workload standards and measures of the OCA.
- 6) Unless it would reduce a board's ability to comply with its duties prescribed by law, each board will be required to use the DCA for administrative and ministerial functions and services, including personnel services, information technology, administration of call centers, and the administration of exams.
- 7) The DCA's existing "information technology system" will be replaced by January 1, 2010, and will be paid for by the boards on a pro rata share basis. "The charge shall be an administrative expense that may be levied *in advance* against the funds of any of the boards..."

8) Operating costs of the Office of the Consumer Advocate will be funded by an annual charge to each board “on a pro rata share basis an amount that is sufficient, as determined by the chief” of the OCA.

9) Following a thorough review as described in item 3, above, “if a board is found deficient, each incumbent member of the board shall be removed from office without a hearing within 10 business days of receipt of the committee’s deficiency report by the Joint Committee on Rules, and successor board members shall be appointed within that timeframe...”

10) “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all appointments of an executive officer...shall be subject to the approval of the director [of the DCA] and confirmation of the Senate.”

Commentary

These are just some of the provisions of SB 963, and items 6-10 should have sent up little red flags.

The intent of item 6, above, is to reduce costs by offering economies of scale. I suggest that this provision would result in *decreasing* the efficiency and response time of the BGG and hamper their day-to-day operations.

What does “information technology system” mean? There is no cost cap in this bill, and as we all know, when it comes to technology expenditures the sky’s the limit. With no cap and no specific detailed cost analysis this is a very dangerous provision.

As with replacing the DCA’s computers and software [just a guess], there is no cap or detailed cost analysis for the funding of the Office of the Consumer Advocate. The BGG’s budget is already tight. Where is this money going to come from? Increased license fees? License fees are intended to support the Board’s functions (Business and Professions Code §7887). Appropriation of these funds for DCA and OCA functions does not seem appropriate.

Why are all board members removed if the board is found to be deficient? What if not all are responsible? What if the entire board had been misled by the executive officer (see AEG SoCal and Sacramento Section newsletters from the beginning of 2005 through the end of 2006)?

If the board’s executive officer, appointed by the board in conformance with B&P Code §7815.5, must be approved by the director of the DCA and confirmed by the Senate, that position becomes a political appointment rather than a technical one.

Conclusions

Despite the creation of a new Office within the DCA and an inevitable increase in bureaucracy, this bill provides for increased transparency in board, OCA, and DCA processes. Financial and performance accountability requirements allow the public to know how their money is being spent. Nearly all of the performance requirements detailed in this bill the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists is already doing, or has begun to achieve under the leadership of Rick Rempel, the board’s current Executive Officer. By maintaining these performance standards, only the quarterly performance reporting will be required, and the more thorough review process described in the bill may never need to be undertaken.

However, there are several provisions in this bill that require further clarification. Hopefully, forthcoming revisions will clarify these concerns in a way that AEG can support.

Overall this is a good bill, providing many benefits over the current system; and if the financial aspects are clarified and are reasonable, then this bill will be worth supporting.

The above discussion is based on my interpretation of SB 963; and others will have differing opinions. The bill contains many other specifics that I did not report, and I encourage you to read the bill for yourself (or at least the Legislative Council's Digest at the beginning).

The full text of SB 963 is available at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>. It's 61 pages long, but only pages 1 through the middle of 19 contain the meat of the bill. The remaining pages essentially delete existing sunset and other non-essential language for all boards.

Chapter Meetings

Inland Empire:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/>

Central Coast:

Monthly meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of every month at Rusty's Pizza in Goleta. Social hour begins at 6 pm, the meeting begins at 7pm.

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/centralcoast/>

For more information or to be added to the CA Central Coast Chapter email list, please contact Robert Urban via email at robert_urban@urscorp.com.

San Diego:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/extremesocal/>

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
Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)**

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
▪ Business Card	\$10	\$100
▪ ¼ Page	\$20	\$200
▪ ⅓ Page	\$30	\$300
▪ ½ Page	\$35	\$350
▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500

SoCal website posting only

\$20/month

* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is Friday, August 31st.

YEAR 2007 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, Peter Thams.

2007 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.

*****NOTICE: Proposed New AEG Publication*****

**WHO'S WHO in SO CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
The Evolution of Engineering Geology in Southern California**

Have you ever wondered "Whatever happened to ___?" or "I've heard of ___, who is he?"

The undersigned have decided to try to prepare an internet publication with the above title, which will include biographies of engineering geologists in southern California. We would like you to share your biography (autobiography) with other EGs. If you have worked on an interesting project, others would like to know about it.

If we limit each autobiography to 3 pages of text, plus photos, this publication would be more than 1,000 pages long. Therefore, we plan to utilize a proposed new AEG Foundation internet website, where there is no limit to total pages, and we can use color photos. Also, this new website will be available for no-charge access, worldwide, thus spreading the word on the history and evolution of engineering geology, and southern California's immense contribution.

We suggest (not require) three criteria for inclusion: 1. That you are a CA licensed CEG; 2. That you are now or once were a member of AEG; 3. That you have enough years of professional experience to relate one or more significant projects you have worked on. We believe there are more than 250 such EGs in southern California. This will be an evolving internet site where new autobiographies can be added.

We will also include Memorial biographies of past notable geologists in southern California. So far, we have identified 30, including John Buwalda, Ian Campbell, Tom Dibblee, Rollin Eckis, Perry Ehlig, Richard Jahns, John Mann, F.L. Ransome, Charles Richter, Dottie & Marty Stout, Gene Waggoner. We will give a presentation on many of these notable geologists at AEG's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in September in Los Angeles.

Here is a CHECKLIST FOR YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

Complete NAME, address, phone, email; BIRTH DATE and place; UNIVERSITY(s) attended, major(s), degree(s), year(s); MILITARY service; FIRMS/AGENCIES you worked for; up to 3 significant PROJECTS you worked on; possibly relate a serious or humorous INCIDENT; a MENTOR you may wish to acknowledge; professional SOCIETIES, HONORS, AWARDS; HOBBIES; up to 5 PUBLICATIONS; PHOTOS of yourself and of projects (scanned images preferred).

So, if you wish to be included in this new internet publication, prepare your autobiography and email it with photos to: allen@hatheway.net and in the Subject box, type: So. Cal. Geologist. Or mail it to Allen Hatheway, 10256 Stoltz Dr., Rolla, MO 65401. Please, no more than 3 pages of text, single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Please pass this notice on to those you may know who no longer get this Newsletter.

In the spirit of camaraderie, we thank you,

Richard Proctor
Allen Hatheway
David Rogers
Larry Cann
Bob Lynn

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING



— engineering and constructing a better tomorrow

MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc., a leading national geotechnical and environmental firm, is seeking Staff and Project Engineering Geologists for the Los Angeles office Geotechnical Division.

STAFF GEOLOGIST: The position requires a BS, MS preferred. 1 to 2 years experience is desirable. (Job ID 1251)

PROJECT GEOLOGIST: The position requires a BS, MS preferred, and minimum 3 to 5 years of experience. (Job ID 2058)

MACTEC offers excellent benefits and salary commensurate with experience. Please email, fax, or mail your resume to:

MACTEC
200 Citadel Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90040
fax (323) 889-5398
dtliu@mactec.com

Job descriptions and requirements at: <http://www.mactec.com/careers/>



**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

Website: www.lqcgeo.com

LGC is looking for dynamic individuals to join our team and work on some of Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Kern Counties' 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.

HETHERINGTON ENGINEERING, INC.

HEI has current employment opportunities for Engineering Geologists, Geotechnical Engineers and Soils Technicians. Established in 1985, HEI has demonstrated a level of professionalism that has resulted in being retained to consult on some of the most challenging geotechnical projects in California. We have immediate position openings in offices located in Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano and Carlsbad.

Project to Senior level Engineering Geologists and Geotechnical Engineers: BS or higher and CEG or RCE registrations required. Experience on a variety of projects and excellent verbal and written communication skills a must.

Technicians: At least three years of experience in the field and/or laboratory.

HEI offers salary commensurate with experience, a benefits package and bonuses. Send resume in confidence to lindal@hetheringtonengineering.com or FAX to (949) 487-9116.

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

The Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department is seeking a full-time certified engineering geologist to supervise and perform engineering geology work and to review plans for conformance with county ordinances dealing with soil and earth stability.

You must be a certified engineering geologist in the State of California and possess a valid California Class C driver's license.

The salary range is \$71,847-\$87,709 annually. The County's benefits package includes contributions to health and dental plan premiums as well as a \$5466 annual cash benefit allowance received as cash or applied to enhance benefits.

With a mild climate and spectacular setting that includes scenic coastline, beautiful valleys, and rugged mountain peaks, Santa Barbara County is one of the most desirable places in the world to live and work.

Visit www.sbcountyjobs.com to apply online, or call (805) 568-2800. This position is open until filled.



JOIN NINYO & MOORE

Company Profile

Since 1986, clients have turned to Ninyo & Moore for complex geotechnical and environmental challenges. As a leading geotechnical and environmental sciences engineering and consulting firm, Ninyo & Moore provides specialized services including evaluations for airports, bridges, commercial developments, dams, educational facilities, harbor and offshore structures, highways and roadways, hospitals, industrial developments, landfills, light rail transit lines, pipelines, power stations, railroads, residential developments, reservoirs and tanks, transmission lines, tunnels, water and wastewater treatment plants to clients in both the public and private sectors. With offices in Colorado, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Texas, the firm is fully committed to being responsive, cost-efficient, and thorough in meeting its clients' project needs and objectives.



Available Positions:

- ✓ **DENVER:** *Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Environmental Professional, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Staff Engineer, Staff Environmental Scientist, and Staff Geologist.*
- ✓ **IRVINE:** *Asbestos & Lead Professional, Environmental Engineer/Scientist-Air Quality Specialist, Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Staff Engineer/Geologist, Senior Environmental Engineer, Staff Engineer/Geologist, Staff Environmental Scientist, Administrative Manager, and Marketing Assistant.*
- ✓ **LAS VEGAS:** *Asbestos & Lead Professional, Construction Field Technician, Geotechnical Engineer, Project Engineer, Project Geologist, Senior Project Engineer, Staff Engineer, and Staff Geologist.*
- ✓ **OAKLAND:** *Field Special Inspectors, Materials Project Manager/Supervisor, Project Environmental Geologist, Scientist or Engineer, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Senior Project Geotechnical Engineer and Staff Geotechnical Engineer.*
- ✓ **PHOENIX:** *Construction Field Technician, Geotechnical Engineer/Engineering Geologist, Project Environmental Scientist, Project Manager-Construction Materials Testing, Senior Environmental Professionals, and Senior Staff Environmental Scientist.*
- ✓ **SAN DIEGO:** *Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Staff Engineer, Construction Field and Laboratory Technicians, and Information Systems Specialist.*

Successful candidates should have a BS or MS degree for staff-level positions and five years or more of experience for project to senior-level positions. The candidates should be detailed oriented and have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Professional Engineer (PE) and/or Professional Geologist (PG) registrations are preferred for project or senior positions.



Ninyo & Moore offers excellent benefits and great opportunities for professional growth. Please visit our website for complete and detailed job descriptions and to submit your resume in confidence at www.ninyoandmoore.com/careers.html or mail to our corporate office at 5710 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123, Attention: Human Resources. EOE

www.ninyoandmoore.com

Ninyo & Moore is an equal opportunity employer.

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