



**ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS  
Southern California Section**

*"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."*

***NEWSLETTER – April 2008***

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**Visit the Southern California Section Website: [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org)**

Newsletter Editor – Steve Varnell, [svarnell@fugro.com](mailto:svarnell@fugro.com), 805-650-7000

**Meeting Date: \*\*\*Tuesday, April 8th\*\*\***

- Location:** Airtel Plaza Hotel: 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91406. Phone number is (818) 997-7676.
- Time:** 6:00 p.m.-Social Hour; 7:00 p.m.-Dinner; 7:45 p.m.-Presentation
- Cost:** \$48 per person with reservations, \$53 without reservations, \$15 with a valid Student ID. Carpooling is encouraged.
- Reservations:** Please e-mail Peter Thams at [thams.peter@gmail.com](mailto:thams.peter@gmail.com)
- Speaker:** **Hugh Robertson, R.G., C.E.G., President and Principal Geologist, Robertson Geotechnical, Inc.**
- Topic:** **Homeowner Slope Repairs-Professional Duty or Liability Snake Pit?**

**Abstract:**

Los Angeles is periodically hit with abnormally high rainfall that adversely affects stability of graded and natural slopes in older residential hillside communities. Failures vary from nuisance to hazardous conditions requiring repair. The affected homeowners enter unfamiliar territory that is costly and frustrating. They look to City/County agencies for help but are met with citations and orders demanding immediate repair. Few geotechnical consultants are available as the more experienced consultants recognize the high liability associated with slope repairs. Those willing to help enter a snake pit of liability, created by their colleagues and the review agencies. Examples from the Los Angeles area highlight how limited homeowner's budgets for exploration and repair, coupled with agency requirements, expose geotechnical consultants to high liability while trying to serve client's needs and meet the standard of care. A risk free, code conforming slope repair is rarely economically feasible and rarely implemented. Disclosing the limitations and explaining the compromises in the geotechnical report cause difficulties in obtaining agency approval. This creates a liability hot potato tossed between the homeowner, the agency and the consultant. The consultant could ultimately bear the liability burden if the slope again experiences problems in subsequent wet winters. In order to assist the community, the consultant and the review agency must compromise on adequate exploration and repair approaches and these compromises must be accepted as standard of care by the geotechnical community. A reasonable remedial repair must improve the condition, be cost effective, and reduce the risk to the owners.

**Speaker:**

Hugh Robertson is the Founder, President and Principal Geologist of Robertson Geotechnical, Inc. in Westlake Village, California. He has over thirty-four years of experience as a Project and Principal Engineering Geologist in the Southern California Area. His expertise has been applied to mass grading, slope stability, settlement, expansive soil movement, landslide stabilization, erosion, debris protection, hillside grading, seismic studies, and private sewage disposal problems. He has performed numerous geologic and geotechnical site investigations throughout Southern California, has served on numerous advisory and legislative committees, and has lectured part time at USC. He has also been chairman of the Southern California Section of AEG.

<b>Chair Column</b>
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Roz Munro

We're meeting in the Valley at AirTel this month. And I hope this is convenient for many of you. What you should also notice is the cost. We've been spoiled by Stevens holding it's per plate price and not charging for anything else. AirTel is charging us not only for the dinners, with a minimum number guaranteed, but also for parking, a room fee, and a screen fee. Peter talked them out of a chair fee for the reservation table (whatever that is). At \$48 we're going to lose money on the meeting unless we get a huge turnout. We will still subsidize the speaker's dinner cost (free) and student dinner cost @ \$15. We want to continue to encourage students. I think a loss at this meeting is worth it to be accessible to more members. If anyone has suggestions for more affordable venues let us know.

So show up. Employers, subsidize your staff for an educational and networking opportunity. We learn so much from each other. And carpool! It's good for the environment and the Section. I look forward to seeing everyone at Tuesday's meeting.

**Reminders:**

The next Board for Geologists and Geophysicists meeting will be held May 9, 2008 at The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 9174 Sky Park Court, San Diego, CA 92123. The agenda comes out about 10 days before the meeting, and is posted on the board's web site. Go to <http://www.geology.ca.gov/> for more information.

The Shlemon Conference, "The Geological Assessment of Naturally Occurring Hazardous Substances" will be held June 4-6 in Folsom, CA. Go to [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) for more information.

The 2008 AEG Annual Meeting will be held September 15-20 in New Orleans, LA. Abstracts deadline is May 1. Go to [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) for more information.

**Announcement**

Charles Nestle

The 2008 County of Los Angeles Building Code (Title 26) is expected to be available in technical book stores around the end of March. In the mean time, the new code may be accessed at either of the following links: <http://www.bpcnet.com/codes/lacounty/> or <http://ordlink.com/codes/lacounty/index.htm>. Click on: "Title 26. Building Code."

**Public Service Announcement**

Charles Nestle

**ZIP-A-DIPs Are Still Available!**

How many of you have given up trying to find replacement for your faded and warped Zip-A-Dips? Zip-A-Dips are available from Don and Jeannine Lamar, who have lived in retirement in Reno for the past six years. Jeannine said that they don't plan on having any more made when they exhaust the present supply of Zip-A-Dips. She said, "It sure is nice to know that some geologists are still using ZADs."

Order your Zip-A-Dip by phone: (775) 322-5344. The price for 1 is \$4.00, or order 2-10 for \$3.50 ea., 11-49 for 3.00 ea., and 50+ for \$2.50 ea.

**Short Course Announcement**

AEG Sacramento presents: **Advanced Rock Slope Stability Analysis: Numerical Methods** Short Course is April 17-18. For details, visit the website at <http://www.aegsacto.org/about/workshops/>.



## SHLEMON CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

### The Geological Assessment of Naturally Occurring Hazardous Substances

June 4 – 6, 2008

Folsom, California, USA

Conference Organizers:

**David W. Bieber**, Geocon Consultants,  
Inc, Rancho Cordova, CA,  
bieber@geoconinc.com

**David Sederquist**, Youngdahl Consulting  
Group, Inc., El Dorado Hills, CA,  
dcs@youngdahl.net

**Jim Brake**, Geocon Consultants, Inc,  
Rancho Cordova, CA,  
brake@geoconinc.com

Shlemon Conferences are sponsored by the AEG Foundation and the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, and follow procedures typical of the Geological Society of America *Penrose Conferences* and the American Geophysical Union *Chapman Conferences*. The conferences are intended to promote and disseminate practice and research results, and to foster the improvement and understanding of applied geology.

The third Shlemon Conference will include keynote presentations by invited experts, volunteered poster presentations by conference attendees, a field excursion, and ample time for informal conversations.

Naturally occurring hazardous geologic substances include arsenic, mercury, uranium and other heavy metals, radon, and asbestos. The

conference will focus on the geologic assessment of these substances including the strategies for sampling and problems with the current analytical methods. However, we will also discuss the interactions between the geologic community and the risk assessment and toxicology communities with regards to the collection of data and inter-professional communication. The conference will emphasize those principles common to the investigation of naturally occurring hazardous geologic substances in general, using the substances listed as examples. Topics covered will also include those characteristics and concerns unique to the assessment of naturally occurring particulates, heavy metals, and gases. Examples will be presented from throughout the United States, as well as from other countries. Key-note presenters have been selected based on topic and diversity of experience, and additional presenters will be selected to enhance the conference content.

The field trip held in conjunction with the conference will visit the Motherlode region of the central Sierras in El Dorado and Amador Counties to view and discuss exposures of asbestos-bearing rock; view areas where elevated metals including arsenic, nickel and chromium occur, including the site of a United States Environmental Protection Agency arsenic cleanup action; and visit an area where naturally occurring radon gas associated with regional granitic rocks occur. Sites visited will include areas of historic mining where we will discuss the role of mining in providing a preferential exposure pathway.

Two days of technical sessions are planned. Each session will include invited keynote speakers who will be followed by brief oral abstracts and poster presentations contributed by conference participants. The one-day field excursion will be conducted on the second day of the conference.

**Small specialty conferences such as this one depend on volunteered presentations and active participants!**

**All attendees are strongly encouraged to contribute to the program by offering a poster presentation.**

Conference attendance will be limited to 75 participants. The registration fee of \$325 U.S. will cover technical sessions on Wednesday, June 4, and Friday, June 6, the field trip on Thursday, June 5, lunches on Wednesday and Thursday, and a dinner on Thursday. Participants will be responsible for transportation to Folsom, California; transportation from the airport to the hotel; and lodging costs. The conference hotel, Lake Natoma Inn, is in the historic mining town of Folsom, California, located adjacent to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, and is within convenient walking distance of historic downtown Folsom.

#### **Registration Payment Due:**

April 1, 2008 (form coming soon)

**For detailed information** and the application form, visit [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) or contact the conference organizers by phone or e-mail.



# AEG•2008

## *Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler* (Let the Good Times Roll!)

### New Orleans, Louisiana

September 15-20, 2008 ~ JW Marriott Hotel

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**ABSTRACTS DEADLINE:**  
**MAY 1, 2008**  
 PLEASE SEND TO JULIE KEATON  
 E-mail: [aegjuliek@aol.com](mailto:aegjuliek@aol.com)  
 Or see [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)

**Technical Program**

- Coastal/Floodplain Processes
- Construction Geology
- Dams/Levees
- Environmental Geology
- Forensic Geology
- Geophysics
- Geotechnics
- Groundwater
- Landslides/Slope Stability
- Professional Practice
- Remote Sensing/GIS
- Rock/Soil Mechanics
- Seismic Hazard
- Site Characterization
- Subsidence
- Tunneling

**Symposia**

- Hurricane Katrina and Mechanism of Failure
- New Madrid Earthquakes
- Coastal Geology and Coastal Hazards
- Environmental Remediation
- Coastal Protection – New Orleans
- Tunneling

**Guest Tours**

- Good Morning New Orleans Walking Tour
- River Road Journey – Antebellum Life
- Garden District Tour with Lunch at Commander’s Palace
- Honey Island Swamp – Eco Tour

**Field Trips**

- Slope Stability – Mississippi River Bluffs
- Hurricane Katrina Devastation Area
- Avery Island Salt Dome & Tabasco Tour
- Civil War Military Geology – Vicksburg Campaign
- Coastal Geology – Barrier Islands
- NASA – Stennis Space Center

**Short Courses**

- GIS
- OSHA 8-hour HAZWOPR Refresher
- Technical Photography

**Special Event**

Mardi Gras Parade and Reception through the French Quarter – with the procession led by a traditional N’awlins jazz group.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*General Chairs:* James May ([jmay1942@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmay1942@bellsouth.net))  
 Darrel Schmitz ([schmitz@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:schmitz@ra.msstate.edu))  
*Field Trips:* Michael J. Wright ([mwright@mdot.state.ms.us](mailto:mwright@mdot.state.ms.us))  
*Field Trip Guidebook Editors:*  
 Joel S. Kuszmaul ([kuszmaul@olemiss.edu](mailto:kuszmaul@olemiss.edu))  
 Robert M. Holt ([mholt@olemiss.edu](mailto:mholt@olemiss.edu))  
*Finance:* Darrel Schmitz ([schmitz@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:schmitz@ra.msstate.edu))  
 Colin McAneny ([mcanenyd@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcanenyd@bellsouth.net))  
*Hospitality / Guest Affairs:*  
 Peggi May ([jmay1942@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmay1942@bellsouth.net))

*Local Liaisons:*  
 Tom Westbrook ([tmwklf@bellsouth.net](mailto:tmwklf@bellsouth.net))  
 Burton Kemp ([kaims@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaims@bellsouth.net))  
*Moderators / Keynote Speaker:*  
 Mike Seal ([michael.c.seal@usace.army.mil](mailto:michael.c.seal@usace.army.mil))  
*Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geologic Project:*  
 Evelyn Villanueva ([Evelyn.Villanueva@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:Evelyn.Villanueva@erdc.usace.army.mil))  
*Publicity:* Jay Ferris ([jferris@earthcon.net](mailto:jferris@earthcon.net))

*Short Courses:* Chris Saucier ([csaucier@cee.msstate.edu](mailto:csaucier@cee.msstate.edu))  
*Special Event:* Donna Schmitz ([donnas@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:donnas@ext.msstate.edu))  
*Sponsors:* Ken Ruckstuhl ([kruckstuhl@env-mgt.com](mailto:kruckstuhl@env-mgt.com))  
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 Wayne Ispording ([wisphord@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:wisphord@jaguar1.usouthal.edu))  
*Technical Program:*  
 Dave Patrick ([david\\_patrick@comcast.net](mailto:david_patrick@comcast.net))  
 Don Banks, Vice Chair, [donbanks@canufly.net](mailto:donbanks@canufly.net)  
*Meetings Manager / Registration and Exhibitors:*  
 Julie C. Keaton ([aegjuliek@aol.com](mailto:aegjuliek@aol.com))

## 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](mailto: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 Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**YEAR 2008 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.

**2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

For those of you who have not yet renewed (**the deadline is November 1**), are unsure about your membership status, or did not receive your membership dues statement, please contact AEG Headquarters at [www.aegweb.org](http://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. Biographies of 14 of these notable geologists were published for the recent AEG Annual Meeting, in "History of the Association's First 50 Years," available from AEG HQ, contact Julie Keaton or Becky Roland.

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**



**LGC Valley, Inc.**

LGC Valley, Inc.

2045 Royal Avenue, Ste. 125

Simi Valley, CA 93065

Tele: (805) 579-3434 Fax: (805) 579-3435

Email: [kesmond@lgcgeo.com](mailto:kesmond@lgcgeo.com)

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Entry level to a few years of experience;

Minimum need is BA/BS in Geology;

Field & office work on water wells and groundwater resources; local office in Studio City, CA;

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Please contact:

Richard Slade

Richard C. Slade & Associates LLC

Consulting Groundwater Geologists

(818) 506-0418

or email resume to:

[b.georgeson@rcslade.com](mailto:b.georgeson@rcslade.com)



## **PALEONTOLOGICAL FIELD MANAGER SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

The San Diego Natural History Museum is run and operated by the San Diego Society of Natural History, a private non-profit scientific organization incorporated in 1874. The Museum's mission is to interpret the natural world through research, education and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of Southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment. Within the Museum, the Department of PaleoServices (DPS) specializes in paleontological resource management. Our focus is on the recognition, recovery, and preservation of the significant and unique paleontological resources that occur in this region. The activities of DPS are helping to preserve significant fossil assemblages and are directly contributing to the growth of the important paleontological research collections at the Museum. We are currently looking to fill the following position

Coordinate paleontological field activities (i.e., supervision of field monitors in prospecting for and collection of fossils and the recording of stratigraphic, taphonomic, geographic, and topographic data) and production of final project reports that summarize the methods and preliminary results of paleontological salvage activities. Other duties include generation of initial discovery letter reports for City, County, and/or State agency managers and generation of paleontological resource assessment technical reports. Opportunities also include paleontological field work in the Southern California region and working with the extensive fossil collections of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

Qualified candidates must have at least a B.S. Degree in Geology or Paleobiology; 2 to 3 years of relevant experience (especially sedimentary geology and paleontology); excellent supervisory/managerial, verbal, written, and interpersonal skills; and a strong work ethic, intense drive, and initiative for quality and customer service. This position is a regular, full-time salaried position with a generous benefits package (e.g., full medical and 401K plan). Compensation will be based on individual qualifications and experience (annual salary range \$40,000 to \$60,000). Please send resumes to Yvonne Kugies ([ykugies@sdnhm.org](mailto:ykugies@sdnhm.org)).

## 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, Environmental Project Manager, Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Staff Engineer/Geologist, Senior Environmental Engineer, Senior Staff Environmental Scientist, Staff Engineer/Geologist, and Staff Environmental Scientist.*
- ✓ **LAS VEGAS:** *Asbestos & Lead Professional, Construction Field Technicians & Inspectors, Geotechnical Engineer, Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Project Engineer, and Staff Engineer/Geologist.*
- ✓ **OAKLAND:** *Entry-Staff Level-Project Engineer/Geologist/Environmental Specialist, Field Special Inspectors, Environmental Project Manager, 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:** *Construction Field and Laboratory Technicians, Laboratory Manager-Construction Materials Testing, Project Engineer/Geologist, Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Staff Engineer, 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](http://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](http://www.ninyoandmoore.com)

Ninyo & Moore is an equal opportunity employer.

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svarnell@fugro.com