



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

"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER –August 2009

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Newsletter Editor – Steve Varnell, svarnell@fugro.com, 805-650-7000

Meeting Date: *Tuesday, August 11th*****

*****Location:** **Victorio's Ristorante:** 10901 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606

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

Cost: \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 without reservations, \$15 with a valid Student ID.

Reservations: Please e-mail Jon Relyea at jonrelyea@gmail.com or call 818-521-9730

Speaker: **Eldon M. Gath, P.G., C.E.G., President and Senior Consultant, Earth Consultants International, Inc.**

Topic: **The Santa Ana Mountains: Indenter-Driven Seismotectonics of The OC**

Abstract:

The Eastern Los Angeles Basin lies at the intersection of the northwest-vergent Peninsular Ranges (Santa Ana Mountains) and the south-vergent Transverse Ranges (Puente Hills). The complexity of this interaction is due to the batholithic-cored Santa Ana Mountains driven northwestward at 5-6 mm/yr along the Elsinore fault as an oblique indenter through the Cretaceous-Eocene stratigraphy and into the Miocene-Holocene sedimentary basins. The indenter model encompasses all of the secondary geomorphic and tectonic features of the Eastern LA Basin, including the dispersed seismicity and the left-lateral solution for the M5.4 July 29, 2008 Chino Hills earthquake. This model temporally and kinematically explains the right-lateral slip on the Whittier fault, the accelerated uplift and folding within the Eastern Puente and Chino Hills, the northward decrease of oblique, right-lateral, reverse slip on the Chino fault, the uplift and segmentation of Loma Ridge, and the repeated northward offset of Santiago Creek, the uplift of the Coyote Hills, and the folding and uplift of the Anaheim and Peralta Hills. The model requires a previously unrecognized left-lateral shear zone along the western side of the Santa Ana Mountains between the indenter and the sedimentary section, evidence for which lies in a 15 km offset of the Cretaceous Holz Shale contact, a 10 km penetration offset of the Miocene Monterey Formation across the indenter, and several left-laterally deflected river systems. The significance of this model is that while many of the faults and folds created by the collision are small seismic sources, the real significance is that they also pose a myriad of potential surface rupture hazards within this densely urbanized region, a hazard that will challenge our profession's ability to characterize it.

Speaker:

Eldon Gath is the President of Earth Consultants International (ECI), a Past-President of the Association of Engineering Geologists, and a life-long graduate student in many of southern California's colleges (OCC, CSULB, CSULA, UCR, and UCI). He has 30 years of engineering geologic consulting experience, starting as a soil technician and ending as a president; and from Irvine Soils, to Pacific Soils, to Leighton & Associates, and for the last 12 years, ECI. For the past 20 years, he has been studying the neotectonic development of Orange County, the San Joaquin Hills, the Whittier fault, the Puente Hills, and now the Santa Ana Mountains.

Chair Column

Peter Thams

We had a good turnout for our July dinner meeting at Steven's Steakhouse. Dr. David Rogers presented the findings of his forensic analysis of the Saint Francis Dam failure. His talk was interesting and informative, and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Dr. Rogers. For our August meeting we will be returning to Victorio's in North Hollywood, where Eldon Gath will be speaking on the tectonics of Orange County. We should also have an update on the situation with the elimination of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG). A brief discussion of what we know at this point follows. Please join us next week for lively discussion and good food.

Board for Geologists and Geophysicists

Despite the fact that there will be no impact on the budget, the Governor used the crisis to eliminate the BGG. Assembly Bill AB4x_20 (AB 4x_20 may be found at: <http://cssrc.us/>; a final chaptered version is also available) of the Fourth Extraordinary Session convened to tackle the budget crisis eliminated the BGG and placed the responsibility for implementing the Geologist

and Geophysicists Act with the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS). The bill allows BPELS two personnel years previously allocated to BGG, but does not specify whether existing staff be maintained or at what level. The bill does specifically delete requirements that members of the geologic profession be appointed to the Board itself, and does specify that the Board be referred to as the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The new legislation is scheduled to become effective in late October of this year.

What this means to the profession is anyone's guess at this point and will depend largely, at least in the short-term, on how BPELS chooses to implement the new legislation. In the best case, the Board may opt for continuity and absorb key staff (Executive Officer and Assistant Executive Officer perhaps - albeit in some diminished capacity), retain key committees (notably the Exam Committee), prevail on the Governor to appoint members of the profession to the Board, and, finally, change the name of the Board to include Geologists. These last two may require additional legislation to accomplish since BPELS, like the former BGG, has a legislatively proscribed make up and title. In the worst case, BPELS could choose to do the easy thing, which is basically nothing, and just collect fees and respond to complaints from the public. They will have to administer exams, but those can always be rewritten and/or reformatted for their convenience, possibly along the lines of the Geotechnical Engineer examination, which in October 2009 will be all multiple choice with no design/essay problems.

How, then, should an organization like AEG respond to this unwelcome development, particularly since active members have been fighting this effort for the last six years or so, and fighting to establish and maintain an independent Board for many years before that? Should we choose to see it as an opportunity and approach BPELS with offers of cooperation and assistance? Or should we try to get the legislation repealed by legal means and/or new legislation? After the initial round of discussions, the consensus appears to be that we should take a measured approach and pursue representation on the Board roughly along the lines presented as the best case above. And that is what is happening at this point. Hopefully, we will have some feedback from BPELS and from our lobbyist, Judy Wolen, who continues to meet with legislative staff to present our concerns, by the dinner meeting next Tuesday.

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.

Chapter Meetings

Inland Empire:

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

Central Coast:

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

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>
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* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is Friday, August 28th.

YEAR 2009 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, Jon Relyea.

2009 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. 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

Seeking Position for Mid-Level Geologist
<p>BS, Geology; 6+ years working in Southern California Experience includes: Geotechnical Investigations Grading Observation and Compaction Testing Geologic Mapping Landslide, Fault and Liquefaction Investigations Phase I Environmental Assessments Hydrogeologic Evaluations Laboratory Soil Testing Report Writing, Drafting</p>
<p>Please Contact: Jonathan Relyea (818) 521-9730, jonrelyea@gmail.com</p>

If you would like to post an ad in the newsletter, please contact Steve Varnell at svarnell@fugro.com. Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

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Stephen Varnell, P.G., C.E.G.
Fugro West, Inc.
4820 McGrath St., Suite 100
Ventura, CA 93003
805-650-7000
svarnell@fugro.com