

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

NEWSLETTER – June 2009

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

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Meeting Date: *Wednesday, June 10th*****

*****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 without reservations, \$15 with a valid Student ID.

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

Speaker: Mark P. Molinari, P.G., C.E.G., C.H.G., Principal Geologist, URS Corporation, 2008-2009 AEG President.

Topic: Practical Applications of Airborne LiDAR Data for Environmental and Engineering Geology Projects

Abstract:

Over the past decade there has been a significant increase in the use of airborne LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data to create detailed topographic base maps and high-resolution (0.2 - 1 m vertical accuracy) digital elevation models (DEMs) for a variety of regional and site-specific projects. If the scope of data acquisition is properly defined and implemented, LiDAR is effective in all types of terrain and vegetation; however it is particularly useful in densely vegetated areas where conventional photogrammetry-based topographic maps and resulting DEMs have a relatively low accuracy. In addition, it is very cost-effective in steep or remote terrain that cannot be easily surveyed by conventional methods. This talk will present a variety of examples where LiDAR was successfully used for environmental and engineering geology projects and the type of derivative products that can be generated using GIS or other computer applications. Primary lessons learned regarding acquisition and QA/QC review of LiDAR data, management of LiDAR vendors, managing large LiDAR data sets and automation of LiDAR data processing will also be summarized.

Example projects include:

- Use of LiDAR-derived GIS products for 28 separate proposed timber sale areas covering approximately 1,400 square miles in Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska to map and evaluate geologic hazards and watershed hydrology, karst, and potential hydrologic effects of the surging Hubbard Glacier on Russell Fjord, and road reconstruction
- Active fault and landslide mapping
- Unexploded ordinance range mapping
- Structural geologic mapping of an inaccessible rock avalanche
- Mine tailing and landslide debris volume estimates
- Levee evaluation
- Detailed topography for surface water- groundwater interaction for a contaminant plume
- Floodplain mapping and geomorphic analysis
- Wetlands hydrology

Speaker:

Mark Molinari is a Principal Engineering Geologist at URS Corporation in Seattle, Washington with 25 years consulting experience assessing geologic and seismic hazards, and performing and managing environmental assessment and remediation projects. He has worked throughout the western U.S., including Alaska, and internationally. He has performed geologic and/or seismic hazard assessments for environmental impact studies, permit applications, and siting and design of onshore and offshore petroleum facilities, power plants, LNG terminals, dams, linear utility corridors, public and commercial facilities, and municipal, hazardous and low-level radioactive waste facilities. His environmental project experience includes due diligence environmental site assessments, hydrogeologic assessments, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) projects, and remedial actions for a wide range of oil & gas, aerospace, and commercial and industrial clients. In addition, he has a RI/FS project for a four square block Brownsfield site for the University of Washington. Mr. Molinari has a B.A. from UC Santa Barbara and MS from University of Nevada-Reno, and is a Licensed Geologist, Hydrogeologist and Engineering Geologist in Washington; a California Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist, and a Nebraska Professional Geologist. He is the 2008-09 AEG

President, and served two years on the AEG board as Washington Section chair and one year on the Governance Committee in addition to his three previous years on the Executive Council.

Chair Column

Peter Thams

Greetings Section. Our May dinner meeting at Victorio's in North Hollywood was an enjoyable evening of good food, drink, and conversation, all followed by a great presentation on the May 12, 2008 Sichuan Province, China Earthquake from Dr. Marshall Lew of MACTEC. Dr. Lew was one of the few foreign observers allowed in the area in the wake of the 8.0 magnitude temblor, and his 122-slide presentation is an important chronicle of the event. Thanks to Dr. Lew. This month we return to Steven's Steakhouse to welcome our President, Mark Molinari, who will be speaking on LIDAR applications to environmental and engineering geology projects.

Board for Geologists and Geophysicists Meeting

The Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) met at the Ronald Reagan Building in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, May 8, 2009. The meeting was lightly attended and brief, ending before noon.

Open Forum: In the Open Forum Section, Tony Sawyer spoke on his attempts to give testimony regarding the appointment of Paul Sweeney at the last BGG meeting. Mr. Sawyer indicated that he felt his rights had been violated by the fact that his testimony was not allowed and that he was considering legal action.

Committee Reports: Kim Taylor, Chair of the Policy Committee, reported that the committee is reviewing BGG policies to determine what policies exist, how they might be updated and/or augmented, and what additional policies are needed. Ms. Taylor also indicated she is working on a mission statement for the committee. Mary Deutsch was approved by the Board (Board Member Paul Sweeney dissenting) as a new member of the Policy Committee. The exam committee reported they are working on the geophysicist exam and are looking for questions for the exam.

Executive Officer's Report: The Executive Officer reported that the BGG is on Budget and revenues are good. Additional workload of the BGG is being managed with the assistance of seasonal employees and overtime. The Board was asked to vote on moving specialty exams scheduled for next spring to the following fall as a one-time adjustment to manage the twice-a-year exam schedule. It was purported that there would be no economic impact on the candidates because they already possess a license to practice and that the specialty certifications were only "Title Acts". This assumption was challenged by attendees, who pointed out that local agencies often require those specialty certifications (particularly the Engineering Geologist) for the completion of certain projects. This item was tabled and BGG staff was directed to research the issue and report back. The BGG adopted an out-of-state equivalency form for candidates seeking licensure based on registration in participating states.

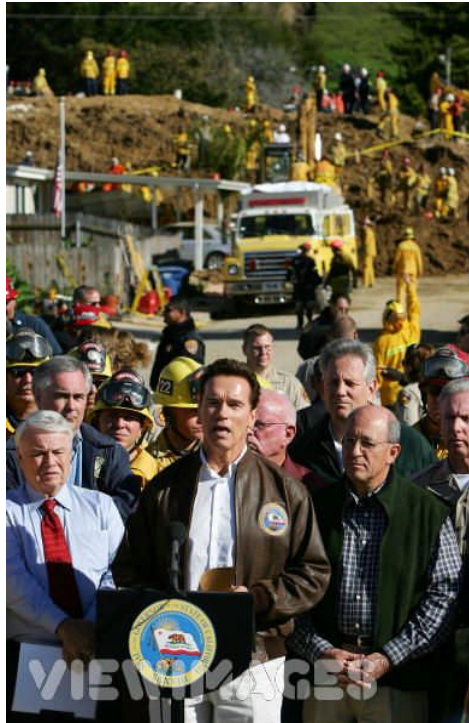
Joint Task Force on Areas of Expertise: Board staff prepared a letter discussing the potential for the Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice (JTAFP) document to be used as an underground regulation as a placeholder letter to meet the AEG deadline for comments. The BGG did not meet during the open comment period and was expected to discuss the JTAFP document at this

meeting. It was hoped that the BGG would adopt an official position on the document as have the Boards of Licensure in the states of Washington and Oregon. The BGG did not discuss the document other than to comment that, since the document was in draft form, BGG would not take a position or comment further. The item was not on the agenda and additional commentary was opposed by Member Sweeney. The Board did allow an update on AEG's agenda regarding the item.

Merger of Board for Geologists with State Mining and Geology Board

The budget propositions went down in spectacular defeat and the Governor is hopping mad...so, under the guise of closing the budget gap, he's back to doing what he does best - blowing things up. You guessed it, Governor Schwarzenegger, has taken the budget stalemate as an opportunity to revive his thrice defeated proposal for the wholesale elimination of Boards and Commissions. In spite of overwhelming evidence that the elimination of the BGG or its merger with another Board, in this case the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), will have no positive effect on the budget and will likely have a negative effect on public health and safety, the Governor continues to press his proposal. Budget hearings are taking place this week and next week in Sacramento, and AEG representatives are both testifying before the budget committee and meeting with key legislators to oppose the merger.

Here are a couple photos of the Governor showing his concern for public safety at the La Conchita Landslide, courtesy Joe Cota. We should know more about how this is going by the dinner meeting next week. Hope to see you there!



Short Course Announcement

LAST CALL**LAST CALL****LAST CALL**

Annual AEG Inland Chapter Short Course

Expanding Geological Practice:

New Areas & Methods

- Talks are in two technical areas plus two overview state of practice talks:
[SITE INVESTIGATION SURVEY METHODS](#)
- **GIS/GPS InSAR LiDAR**
[ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES](#)
- **Climate Change Solid Waste Management SWPP Water Sampling**
[STATE OF PRACTICE](#)
- **State of Engineering Geology Practice State of Environmental Practice**
- **Date: Friday June 12, 2009**
 - **Registration deadline: Friday June 5; SO REGISTER NOW!!**
- **Location:**
 UC-Riverside, Extension Center, Riverside, CA
- **Cost**
 - \$90 AEG members
 - \$115 non-member Professional
 - \$20 Students (limited number of student spaces available)
 Registration fee includes parking & lunch
- **To register: -- call UC-Riverside Extension (800) 442-4990**
--Sign up for Course# 084-SCS-S40: Expanding Geological Practice: New Areas & Methods
- **Schedule:**
 - 8:30 Registration
 - 9:00 – 12:10 Survey method talks
 - 12:10 – 1:40 Lunch
 - 1:40 – 4:15 Environmental talks
- For more information & brochure, see the AEG Inland website:
<http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/shortcourses/>

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>
▪ 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, June 26th.

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

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.

Company & Employment Advertising Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)		
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▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500
<u>SoCal website posting only</u>		
\$20/month		

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