



THE ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Connecting Professionals, Practice and the Public

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

NEWSLETTER – Aug 2011

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

OFFICERS

Chair - Peter Thams, thams.peter@gmail.com, 805-493-0663

Vice Chair – Vacant

Treasurer – Dave Perry, dlperry@mactec.com, 323-889-5326

Secretary – Gregory Sena, gsema@dpw.lacounty.gov, 626-458-4923

Newsletter Editor – Shant Minas, shant@aessoil.com, 818-552-6000

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

Greetings, AEG Southern California Section Member! Our August meeting will be held at the tried and true Stevens Steakhouse in Commerce. Come join us for an important presentation regarding the recent New Zealand earthquake.

At the current time, the AEG SoCal Board is looking for volunteers to join the Board in various positions. Please contact Dave Perry or Shant Minas, contact information is shown above.

Upcoming AEG Meeting Date: *****Tuesday, August 9, 2011*****

Meeting Location: Steven's Steakhouse, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
(323) 723-9856

Meeting Time: 6pm Social Hour, 7pm Dinner, 7:45pm Presentation

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

***Reservations:** Please email Dave Perry at dlperry@mactec.com or call (323) 889-5326

Speaker: Dr. Craig A. Davis, PhD, GE, PE; LA Department of Water and Power

Topic: Recent Earthquake Impacts on Christchurch, New Zealand

August 2011

Chair's Column

By Peter Thams

We'll be returning to Steven's Steakhouse for our August meeting, which may be our last meeting until October, due to the annual meeting in Alaska. Our Vice-Chair, Dave Perry, has indicated he would like to have a meeting in September, noting that not all members travel to the annual. This will depend on identifying a speaker for the month, so please consider this a *Call for Speakers*. If you have an interesting topic or project and would like give a presentation please let us know – students are encouraged to participate.

Our former Vice-Chair, Steve Varnell, has accepted a transfer to Fugro's Houston office. I'd like to thank Steve for his efforts and dedication over the last couple of years and wish him luck in Houston. He'll be missed by the Section, and we hope he stays active in the Texas Section and/or at the national level.

We are currently looking for officers for the Section, so if you are interested please contact Dave Perry or me. Remember, we are a volunteer organization and can't function without your participation.

BPELSG Update: I attended the July 28th meeting of BPELSG in Sacramento and had an opportunity to meet the new executive officer, Ric Moore, and the geologist Board Member, Erik Zinn. Both were welcoming and happy to see the association being represented (Garry Maurath and Sierra Nelmes from Sacramento were also there) at the meetings. Board president, Jerry Silva, stated that he would like to have the various associations that represent licensees of the board give a brief presentation (10-minute) on their organizations, for the benefit of new board members at upcoming meetings. This will be a good opportunity to build a relationship with the board and I indicated that AEG would be happy to participate.

Geology TAC: The Board appointed two new members to the TAC, both geophysicist, Mark Riches and Bill Owen, to replace two members whose one-terms were ending. Mark Riches is

August 2011

the Vice President of GeoVision, a southern California company providing geophysical services for various applications. Bill Owen is the Chief of Caltrans' Geophysics and Geology Branch in Sacramento. These appear to be good appointments to the TAC and should be welcome news for the geophysical community.

Geologist Registrar BPELSG Staff: BPELSG requested funding for a licensed geologist on staff through the Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process on July 1st. The proposal, which has the support of the Senate committee responsible for the sunset review of the board, made it past the initial screening by DCA and appears to be moving forward. On the other hand, there is state-wide hiring freeze which could derail the effort. However, BPELSG will seek and exemption and reports an 86% approval rate by the governor's office for exemptions. We'll continue to follow this issue.

Enforcement: As I've noted in previous columns, enforcement in the geology program has dropped off significantly since BPELSG assumed responsibility. This issue was raised by the senate committee during the sunset review process and BPELSG was directed to work with DCA to improve response time and closure rates. BPELSG reports they are making progress, but cite incomplete investigations by the former BGG and appeals of citations by respondents as reasons for the backlog and slow process. The Board announced that nine citations and one proposed accusation were approved in the closed session portion of the meeting. They did not announce the nature of the citations or to which program they apply.

AB 1210: AB 1210 is a bill seeking to clarify that all civil engineering activities related to the preparation of construction storm water pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) must be prepared by or under the supervision of a licensed civil engineer. The three California Sections wrote a joint letter in opposition to the bill. We (SoCal Section) also sent Joe Cota to meet with legislators to educate them on the issues related to the bill and to attend the senate hearing to testify in opposition. This bill has been pulled for now and, based on discussion at the BPELSG meeting, appears dead. We'll keep an eye on this and report any new activity.

Recent Earthquake Impacts on Christchurch, New Zealand.

A moment magnitude M_w 7.0 earthquake struck the Canterbury Plain on September 4, 2010 occurred on a strike slip fault, approximately 30 km from Christchurch, causing \$4 billion in damages but no casualties. On February 22, 2011 a M_w 6.1 aftershock occurred on a blind thrust fault, 5 km south of Christchurch, causing \$20 billion in damages and hundreds of casualties. This presentation will focus mainly on the impacts of the M_w 6.1 earthquake to the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. The Christchurch Central Business District (CBD) suffered serious damages including the collapse of some high rise structures and severe damage to hundreds of other buildings. The CBD has been cordoned off as a militarized zone, severely impacting the local economic systems. Much of the Christchurch area suffered extensive liquefaction, including the CBD, causing damages to structures and critical lifeline systems. Water, sewer, power, and other critical services were lost, inhibiting the response and restoration process. Many bridges were damaged by lateral spreading, but all remained usable. Water deliveries were completely restored in about 6 weeks but with significantly reduced reliability. Sewer services were severely impacted by liquefaction. About 60% of the sewage is released directly into rivers and estuaries and this disposal method is expected to continue for over a year. Power services are restored, but the network is vulnerable and outages continue to result from smaller events. A recent M_w 6.0 aftershock located northeast of the February 2011 event re-liquefied large areas and caused even greater damages to the Cities' critical services. An overview is presented on the catastrophe being experienced in Christchurch New Zealand.

August 2011

CRAIG A. DAVIS, Ph.D., PE, GE is the Geotechnical Engineering Manager for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Water System and is responsible for managing geotechnical engineering, contract management, and project management groups for LADWP geotechnical projects and overseeing a \$700 million dam and reservoir development program and the Water System seismic improvement program. He is a California licensed Civil and Geotechnical Engineer and received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the California Polytechnic State University in San Louis Obispo, CA, an M.S. in Civil Engineering with emphasis in structural earthquake engineering from the University of Southern California in 1991, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with emphasis in geotechnical earthquake engineering from the University of Southern California in 2000. He has worked for the LADWP since 1987 where he has investigated and evaluated numerous dams, managed several multimillion dollar projects, and implemented unique and innovative designs.

Dr. Davis is actively involved in earthquake, geotechnical, and lifeline engineering research, developing a number of case studies from the 1971 San Fernando and 1994 Northridge earthquakes and performing evaluations on the seismic performance of dams and reservoirs, pipelines and underground structures, the effects of ground deformations on water system facilities, and seismic resiliency of lifeline systems. Dr. Davis has published over 60 papers in technical journals and conference proceedings and has co-organized national and international workshops on water systems and earthquake related aspects. He is on the executive committee for the ASCE Technical Council for Lifeline Earthquake Engineering and the Lifeline steering committee for the California Strong Motion Instrumentation Program. Dr. Davis is an adjunct professor at the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture. Recently, Dr. Davis joined the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, an international not-for-profit organization, to work on the Mumbai, India project as an expert in water lifeline networks.

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

August 2011

AEG offers two ways to increase your company's visibility for under \$100 per year. Each *Annual Report and Directory* and each issue of *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* includes the Professional Index. Available only to AEG members, this is a great way to promote your company. For \$80 per year, you can be included in both the Directory and Journal.

Many of our members use this index to find colleagues to assist with projects or to recommend their services to others. Don't miss your chance to be included in the *2011 Annual Report and Directory*. Reservations are due by February 2011 to secure your listing.

Pricing is:

\$30 – *Annual Report and Directory*

\$60 – *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience*

\$80 – Both publications

You can order online at

<https://aegweb.org/i4a/forms/form.cfm?id=23&pageid=4837&showTitle=1>

or call Cathy Wilson at 303-757-2926.

* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is August 30.

YEAR 2011 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, Dave Perry.

2011 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.

If you would like to post an ad in the newsletter, please contact Shant Minas at shant@aessoil.com. Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

	<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

Shant Minas
Applied Earth Sciences
4742 San Fernando Road
Glendale, CA 91204
818-552-6000 x109
shant@aessoil.com