

October 2011



THE ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

NEWSLETTER – Oct 2011

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
SECTION

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Greetings, AEG Southern California Section Member!

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

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

Upcoming AEG Meeting Date: *****Tuesday, October 11, 2011*****

Meeting Location: Cisco's Restaurant, 1712 Avenida de Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, (805) 493-0533

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: David L. Perry, CEG; MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.

Topic: Subsurface Characterization at LADWP Headworks Reservoir Site, City of Los Angeles

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Chair's Column

By Peter Thams

Unfortunately, I'm opening this month's column on a sad note. We learned in early September (September 2nd) of the passing of Bruce Schell, a dedicated geologist and long-term member of the Southern California Section. I hope everyone will take a moment to remember Bruce and his contributions to both the section and the profession.

AB1210 Update: You may recall from the August newsletter that this assembly bill, which was intended to "clarify" the role of Civil Engineers in the preparation of construction stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs), was pulled by the author under heavy opposition from industry and professional organizations (including the California Sections of AEG) representing the various disciplines involved in their preparation. The bill, as written at the time, gave the mistaken impression that SWPPPs were the practice of engineering and had to be prepared by or under the direction of a licensed Civil Engineer. Additional offensive language in the bill exempted Civil Engineers from the training and certification required by the general permit. Having been pulled by the author with instruction from the Senate Business and Professions Committee to work out amendments with opponents, the bill was considered dead or, at least, to require a matter of years to be reconsidered through normal channels.

Well, they didn't invent the legislative silly season for nothing. Without any meaningful discussion with opposing groups (one industry group was apparently persuaded to drop their opposition), the bill was amended to include only the exemptions for training and certification of Civil Engineers. The amended bill passed through both houses with lightening speed, as an urgency measure, and is now sitting on the Governor's desk for signature or veto. The Governor has until October 10th to decide on the bill. If he signs the bill or takes no action at all, the bill will be adopted and, since it is an urgency measure (i.e. necessary to protect public health and safety), it will become effective immediately. The Governor has gone on record with his intent to veto most last-minute urgency bills of this type, and the California Sections of AEG have sent group letter of opposition. We'll see what happens.

The text of AB1210 is included on the following pages for reference.

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 31, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1210

Introduced by Assembly Member Garrick
(Coauthors: Senators Cannella and Padilla)

February 18, 2011

An act to add Section 6730.4 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to water quality, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1210, as amended, Garrick. Water quality: stormwater discharge: civil engineering activities.

Under

(1) *Under* existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge of stormwater by municipalities and industries in accordance with the federal national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit program.

Existing law, the Professional Engineers Act, requires all civil engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports to be prepared

by, or under the responsible charge of, a licensed civil engineer. A violation of the act is a crime.

This bill would exempt a civil engineer from any requirement of additional experience, training, or certification requirements in order to perform activities in the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan pursuant to a specified general permit for stormwater discharges.

(2) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

~~This bill would require all civil engineering activities performed in the preparation of stormwater pollution prevention plans pursuant to a specified general permit for stormwater discharges to be performed under the responsible charge of a licensed civil engineer.~~

~~Because a violation of these provisions would be a crime under the Professional Engineers Act, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.~~

~~Vote: majority ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes-no. State-mandated local program: yes-no.~~

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 *SECTION 1. Section 6730.4 is added to the Business and*
- 2 *Professions Code, to read:*
- 3 *6730.4. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a licensed civil*
- 4 *engineer shall not be required to satisfy any additional experience,*
- 5 *training, or certification requirements in order to perform activities*
- 6 *in the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan*
- 7 *(SWPPP) pursuant to the General Permit for Storm Water*
- 8 *Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance*
- 9 *Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ of the State Water*
- 10 *Resources Control Board), or any amendments to that order.*
- 11 *(b) For purposes of Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ of the State*
- 12 *Water Resources Control Board and any amendments thereto, a*
- 13 *licensed civil engineer shall be deemed to be in compliance with*
- 14 *all qualified SWPPP developer training and certification*

1 *requirements and shall have the full authority of a person who*
2 *possesses a qualified SWPPP developer certificate issued by the*
3 *State Water Resources Control Board.*

4 *(c) The preparation of a SWPPP by a licensed civil engineer*
5 *who does not possess a qualified SWPPP developer certificate*
6 *issued by the State Water Resources Control Board does not*
7 *constitute a violation of Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ of the State*
8 *Water Resources Control Board or any amendments thereto.*

9 *SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*
10 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within*
11 *the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into*
12 *immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

13 *In order to ensure licensed engineers are able to perform*
14 *activities relating to storm water pollution prevention as soon as*
15 *possible, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.*

16 ~~SECTION 1. Section 6730.4 is added to the Business and~~
17 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

18 ~~6730.4. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, all civil engineering~~
19 ~~activities performed in the preparation of stormwater pollution~~
20 ~~prevention plans pursuant to the General Permit for Storm Water~~
21 ~~Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance~~
22 ~~Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ of the State Water~~
23 ~~Resources Control Board), and all amendments to that order, shall~~
24 ~~be performed under the responsible charge of a licensed civil~~
25 ~~engineer.~~

26 ~~(b) A licensed civil engineer shall not be required to satisfy any~~
27 ~~additional experience, training, or certification requirements in~~
28 ~~order to perform activities in the preparation of stormwater~~
29 ~~pollution prevention plans as described in subdivision (a).~~

30 ~~(c) Nothing in this section is intended to affect the practice rights~~
31 ~~of any person licensed by the state to practice or perform any~~
32 ~~functions or services pursuant to that license.~~

33 ~~SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to~~
34 ~~Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because~~
35 ~~the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school~~
36 ~~district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or~~
37 ~~infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty~~
38 ~~for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of~~
39 ~~the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within~~

- 1 ~~the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California~~
- 2 ~~Constitution.~~

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SB543 Update: Among other things, SB543 extends the operation of the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG) until 2016, and creates a Geology and Geophysics Account within BPELSG. This bill is also on the Governor's desk awaiting a signature or veto. Although this is not one of the last-minute bills, according to Judy Wolen there are provisions in the bill (unrelated to BPLSG) that the Governor does not like, which means it is possible that he will veto it. If the bill is vetoed, BPLSG will sunset on January 1, 2012. No telling what will happen here.

Breaking news: AB543 was signed by the Governor on 10/3/2011, and BPELSG operation has been extended to the new sunset date of January 1, 2016.

BPELSG Announcements

Visit <http://www.geology.ca.gov/> for news, meeting announcements, notices, and exam information. The following recent notices have been posted:

No new notices have posted since the prior September 2011 newsletter.

October Speaker

Mr. Perry is a Senior Engineering Geologist at AMEC Environment and Infrastructure in Los Angeles. He has 26 years of experience on geologic investigations for design and construction monitoring of infrastructure projects throughout California. A majority of these projects have been engineering geology studies for dams, tunnels, water storage reservoirs, water and sewer pipelines, highway and subway-rail structures, educational institutions, commercial facilities, sanitary landfills, and land development. He has performed numerous fault-rupture-hazard studies in southern California and Washington. Major infrastructure projects include the light rail/subway tunnels for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Emergency Water Storage Reservoir Project) for the San Diego County Water Authority.

Mr. Perry is the current treasurer of the AEG Southern California section. He received his Bachelors degree in Geological Sciences from the University of California at Santa Barbara and completed graduate studies in geology at Cal State Los Angeles.

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Subsurface Characterization at LADWP Headworks Reservoir Site, City of Los Angeles

PERRY, David, L., CEG, david.perry@amec.com, AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, Inc., 5628 East Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90040

The proposed Headworks Reservoir is part of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Replacement Project, which will be constructed on approximately 12 acres within the Headworks Spreading Grounds, located in the southeastern San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, California. The Headworks Reservoir will consist of two structurally-separate reinforced concrete water storage structures surrounded by earthen embankments, with combined capacity of about 110 million gallons. The geologic units underlying the project site consists of artificial fill, recent to Holocene age alluvial deposits, and variably weathered quartz diorite / granodiorite that is cut by intrusive mafic dikes. This presentation provides a description of geotechnical exploration and testing methods for site characterization. Subsurface exploration consisted of rotary wash and continuous dry-core borings, Becker Penetration Test (BPT) soundings, sonic core borings, ground-water monitoring wells, close-range terrestrial photogrammetry and logging of deep test trenches, large-diameter ring density tests, suspension P-S wave velocity testing, and spectral analysis of surface waves (SASW).

The advantages of supplementing rotary-wash borings with samples collected at 3- foot depth intervals with continuous dry core and sonic core borings will be presented. Due to the presence of thick sandy gravel lenses in the alluvial deposits beneath the site, BPT soundings in addition to conventional SPT testing was performed for liquefaction evaluation. In-situ density testing was conducted at 3-foot depth intervals in a 20-foot deep test trench using large (3- and 6-foot) diameter rings where gravel and cobbles were encountered. SASW and suspension logging was performed to characterize the shear wave velocity of the alluvial deposits and bedrock. An excellent correlation in shear wave velocity profiles was observed between several of the SASW surveys and suspension logging. Laboratory testing consisted of two and three-point direct shear tests, consolidation tests, triaxial unconsolidated-undrained tests, Atterberg limits tests, and over 80 grain size analyses. The laboratory test program was needed to characterize the alluvial deposits for liquefaction evaluation and soil-structure interaction analyses.

Summary of ASTM E2790-11

ASTM Standard Designation E2790-11: Standard Guide for Identifying and Complying With Continuing Obligations

ASTM E2790-11 was recently published in June 2011. The purpose of the guide is to provide information and guidance about procedures that, if completed, would help landowners to satisfy continuing obligations of the landowner liability protections under CERCLA and the 2002 Brownfields Amendments (including the bona fide prospective purchaser, the innocent landowner, and the contiguous property owner defenses). The guide outlines a suggested

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procedure to evaluate potential environmental impacts, both existing and in the future, consistent with legal obligations and implement such continuing obligations.

Continuing Obligations were established in the 2002 Brownfields Amendments, which amended CERCLA. Continuing obligations include the following (text directly excerpted from Section 1.1.1 of the new standard):

1. Complying with any land use restrictions established or relied upon in connection with a response action at a property;
2. not impeding the effectiveness or integrity of any institutional controls employed at a property in connection with a response action;
3. taking reasonable steps with respect to releases of hazardous substances, including stopping continuing releases, preventing threatened future releases, and preventing or limiting human, environmental or natural resource exposure to prior releases of hazardous substances;
4. providing full cooperation, assistance and access to persons who are authorized to conduct response actions or natural resource restoration at a property;
5. complying with information requests and administrative subpoenas; and
6. providing legally required notices with respect to releases of any hazardous substance at a property.

The guide includes a four step approach to identify and comply with continuing obligations, including a flow chart, the legal background, and recommended reporting formats for statements of no continuing obligations requirements, continuing obligations plans, continuing obligations monitoring and evaluation reports, and a sample form for conducting a continuing obligations field investigation at a property.

Generally speaking, properties that are identified with releases, activity and land use restrictions, or the potential for future releases during completion of pre-purchase environmental due diligence (including Phase I Environmental Site Assessments) may trigger the need to satisfy continuing obligations following the purchase for new landowners. While not all landowners

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may wish to assert one of the three landowner liability protections under CERCLA, some landowners may have the need, or may not fully understand the applicability of continuing obligations as they may relate to managing their environmental liability and risk in property transactions. Environmental Professionals assisting clients with pre-purchase appropriate inquiry, including completion of Phase I Environmental Site Assessments and other environmental due diligence activities, now have a guide in ASTM E2790-11 that can aid Environmental Professionals in assisting clients with further managing their environmental risk and post-purchase continuing obligations.

ASTM E2790-11 is available for download at <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E2790.htm>.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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Langan offers integrated engineering and environmental services for both public and private sector clients at sites located throughout the United States and abroad.

Langan is seeking an energetic, highly motivated and responsible Staff Engineering Geologist for a position in our Irvine, CA office. We are seeking candidates with two to four years of related engineering geology and geotechnical consulting experience. The successful candidate will assist with projects in the field and office. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: planning and conducting engineering geologic and geotechnical engineering field investigations; geotechnical site characterizations; landslide investigations; fault location and seismic hazard assessments; data analysis and report preparation. This is a tremendous growth opportunity for an ambitious candidate in the field of geologic and geotechnical consulting.

Requirements

- B.S. degree in Engineering Geology, M.S. degree in Engineering Geology preferred;
- Geologist in Training certificate;
- Experience with a variety of engineering geologic and geotechnical engineering investigations in California;
- Experience with geologic mapping and observation of grading during construction;
- Strong attention to detail with excellent analytical and judgment capabilities;
- Demonstrated ability to follow direction and work independently and in a team environment;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as organization and multi-tasking skills;
- Working knowledge of computers, AutoCAD and GIS experience a plus; and,
- Availability to work overtime.

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MORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Additional career opportunities in California are also posted on AEG's national website on the Careers page at

http://careers.aegweb.org/jobs#/results/filter=%28state_province%3Acalifornia%29&resultsPerPage=100&showMoreOptions=true&selectedTab=bti-facets-discipline&view=single .

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.

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 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. 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 Christy Confar at cconfar@grouppdelsol.com. Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

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



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AD DIMENSIONS / FILE SPECIFICATIONS

LOGO AD

Logo Ad
160 x 60 px

(Proportions are fixed; actual size is dependent on monitor resolution)

STATIC

(Ad displays continuously)

File Dimensions:
160w x 60h pixels

File Type*: GIF, JPG
(Animation is not supported for logo ads)

Max File Size: 50k

Colors: RGB

ROTATING

(Ad will be looped with up to 4 additional ads, each displaying for 5 seconds)

File Dimensions:
160w x 60h pixels

File Type*: GIF, JPG
(Animation is not supported for logo ads)

Max File Size: 50k

Colors: RGB

SKYSCRAPER AD

Skyscraper Ad
190 x 240 px

(Proportions are fixed; actual size is dependent on monitor resolution)

STATIC

(Ad displays continuously)

File Dimensions:
190w x 240h pixels

File Type*: GIF, JPG

Max File Size: 150k

Max Animation Length:
5 seconds

Colors: RGB

ROTATING

(Ad will be looped with up to 4 additional ads, each displaying for 5 seconds)

File Dimensions:
190w x 240h pixels

File Type*: GIF, JPG

Max File Size: 150k

Max Animation Length:
5 seconds

Colors: RGB

**All animated images must be in GIF format only.*



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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Ad Size	Location	Frequency		Static / Rotating**	Cost per		Net Rate
		Year	6 Mo		Year	6 Mo.	
Skyscraper	Home Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$1500	\$900	\$ _____
Skyscraper	Home Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Rotating	\$500	\$300	\$ _____
Logo*	Home Page	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Rotating	\$200	\$120	\$ _____
Skyscraper	Secondary Page (All)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Rotating	\$250	\$150	\$ _____
Skyscraper	Secondary Pg. (1 specific pg.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$150	\$90	\$ _____
Skyscraper	Secondary Pg. (3 specific pgs.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$300	\$180	\$ _____
Skyscraper	Secondary Pg. (All pgs.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$600	\$360	\$ _____
Logo*	Secondary Pg. (1 ad per page)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$50	\$30	\$ _____
Logo*	Secondary Pg. (1 ad for 5 pages)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Mo.	Static	\$200	\$120	\$ _____

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SEND ALL AD MATERIAL TO:

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October 2011

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

Shant Minas
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