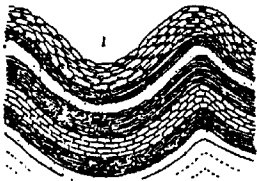


**ASSOCIATION
OF
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**
Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1999

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL
ENGINEERS - LOS ANGELES SECTION - GEOTECHNICAL
ENGINEERING GROUP**



- Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 1999
- Location:** Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
- Time:** Social Hour - 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Reservations:** Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564
- Cost:** \$20.00 per person (students \$10.00 w/ valid i.d.). Please make reservations by Noon Monday March 8th. "No-shows" will be billed.
- Speaker:** William Goodman, Principal Geologist, NMG Geotechnical,
and
Mike Stevens, Project Engineer, Hayward Baker
- Topic:** Geologic Conditions and Mitigation of Liquefaction
Potential by Stone Column Ground Improvement
Beneath Proposed High School Site, Chiquita Canyon,
Orange County, California

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Chiquita Canyon is located in southern Orange County in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains that lie in the northern end of the Peninsular Range geomorphic province. The canyon is occupied by Holocene alluvial sediments up to 110 feet deep. Previous work by the California Division of Mines and Geology noted spring conditions at the site in the early 1970s, and aerial photograph reviews indicate historic shallow groundwater conditions. A site-specific liquefaction study was conducted for a proposed school site. Subsurface exploration revealed a complicated layering and lensing of alluvium with diverse lithologies. Analysis of the subsurface data indicated that liquefaction potential exists for many of the layers beneath the site. To mitigate the potential liquefaction impacts to the buildings, stone column ground improvement (vibro replacement method) was designed. The lecture will review the site conditions and the rationale behind the selected mitigation scheme.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

Thank you everyone who participated in the Southern California Section membership survey late last year. The responses from the survey will determine how our section is run in the next year and a half. One of the ongoing issues faced by the leadership of the section is the location for our monthly dinner meetings. Responses to the survey indicate that the most popular meeting location is Orange County, followed by San Diego and the San Fernando Valley. Speakers and venues for our meetings are arranged several months in advance, however new locations are being planned for our May, June, and July meetings. Most locations I have contacted require prepayment and a fixed headcount several days prior to the meeting. Therefore, it is essential that reservations are made and kept for future meetings. In order to accommodate requests by the members for alternative meeting locations, starting with our May meeting, we will be adopting a policy of billing no-shows and charging a premium for those that show up without a reservation. This is the only way we will be able to operate our meetings and break even; your cooperation will be greatly appreciated to make this a success. I am still looking for a meeting location in the San Fernando Valley that will be suitable. Our previous meetings at the Airtel Hotel have been financial disasters with considerable losses to the section. If anyone has a suggestion for a meeting venue in the Valley, please contact me. I am also trying to arrange joint meetings with the San Diego Association of Geologists and the Inland Geologic Society. If you know the officers of either of these organizations, please contact me or Dave Seymour. Many respondents to the survey suggested great ideas for field trips, short courses, and speakers. These suggestions have been forwarded to the appropriate committee chairs. Thank you to those who volunteered to help with short courses, etc. I have passed your names on to the committee chairs and you should be contacted shortly. Remember, our section is run entirely by volunteers - it's not too late for you to help! If you have an interest in helping with a certain aspect of the Association, please speak up, your effort will be appreciated.

-- Wendy Schell

AGI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM SPECIAL UPDATE - EARTHQUAKE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION GETS UNDERWAY

On February 23rd, the House Subcommittee on Basic Research held a hearing as the first step toward reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). New subcommittee chairman Rep. Nick Smith (R-MI) expressed his support for the program and his hope to "increase authorization funding and also increase our bang for the buck." One of the scientists giving testimony stated that "if research can reduce the loss from single future earthquake by as little as 10 percent, the payoff on the research investment will be as much as a thousand times the annual research budget for earthquake research in this country." Two of AGI's member societies have sent out alerts to their membership encouraging them to express their views on NEHRP to Congress in order to keep the legislative ball rolling to successful enactment of a new bill. The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) was created by law in 1977 as a long-term, nationwide, earthquake risk

Reduction program. Member agencies in the NEHRP are the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The main focus of these agencies under NEHRP has been research and development in areas such as the science of earthquakes, earthquake performance of buildings and other structures, societal impacts, and emergency response and recovery. Congress reauthorizes NEHRP every two years, and funds the program every year via the annual appropriations process. The current authorization for NEHRP expires October 1, 1999.

S P R I N G F I E L D T R I P U P D A T E

At the 9 March dinner meeting, Section Field Trip Chairman Kim Bishop will provide us with an update on the Section's Spring Field Trip on May 15 and 16 to the Blackhawk Landslide and other landslide features in the high Mojave Desert. Kim says a field trip registration sheet most likely will be circulated with the April newsletter.

**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ENGINEERING
GEOLOGISTS**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is offering an OPEN (Continuous Testing) exam for the Hazardous Substances Engineering Geologist series. DTSC's primary responsibilities are to regulate hazardous waste management activities; clean up contaminated sites; and support the development of waste reduction, recycling, and treatment as alternatives to land disposal of hazardous waste. DTSC offices are located in Sacramento, Berkeley, Clovis, Glendale, and Cypress. There currently are vacancies for 12 geologists, primarily in Cypress, but also in Sacramento and Berkeley. The salary range is: A - \$2868-3319 B - \$3283-3988 C - \$3869-4702. To apply, applicants must first compete in this exam or be a current state employee. The last open exam was December, 1996. To apply, complete a standard State application (Form 678) indicating that you are applying for the Hazardous Substances Engineering Geologists examination. Forms may be downloaded from the State Personnel Board's web site: <http://www.dpa.ca.gov>. Send your completed form to: Mary Ellen Lucero, Human Resources Branch, Room 4490, Department of Toxic Substances Control, P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806. Exams will be given on a continuous basis, as needed. The first exams likely will be in March/April 1999. Once your application is received, you will be scheduled for an interview. For more information, visit the DTSC web site: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov>.

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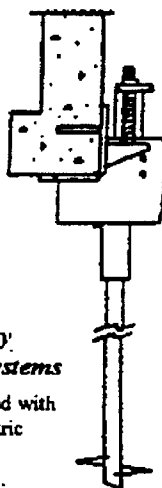
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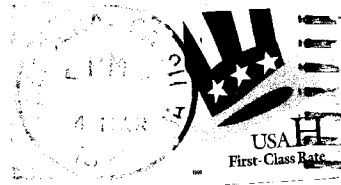
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