



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

NEWSLETTER – November 2010

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Upcoming AEG Meeting Date: *Tuesday, November 9, 2010*****
Meeting Location: Stevens Steakhouse
5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
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 call or email Dave Perry at
dlperry@mactec.com or call 323-889-5326
Speaker: Bruce Hilton, AEG President
Chief Engineering Geologist, Kleinfelder
Topic: Engineering-Geologic Challenges Regarding High Speed Trains through California

**** Greetings, AEG members! This month, we have scheduled a special talk by AEG President Bruce Hilton of Kleinfelder, regarding the news-worthy topic of the proposed high-speed trains in California, and the engineering-geologic challenges associated with them. See you in Commerce! ****

Chair's Column

By Peter Thams

Greetings Section. Our next meeting will be at Steven's Steakhouse in Commerce, where AEG President Bruce Hilton will be our speaker. This a good opportunity to find out what's going on at the national level and voice opinions on any controversial issue that may concern you. In December we'll be meeting in the Westlake Village area, where Frank Denison will be speaking on the recent earthquake in New Zealand. Frank was in New Zealand at the time of the earthquake and has some great stories, photos, etc. to share. Hope you can make it to these meetings.

AB 1431 and BPELS Update: Assembly Bill AB 1431, which adds one geologist and one public member to the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPELS) passed both houses of legislature last summer unanimously. The bill also changes the name of the board to include geologists. That's the old news. What surprised those who have been working on this issue is that the Governor actually signed it (at the last minute), and it will take effect in January 2011. Although we had asked for more, and suggested a sensible way to get both a geologist and a geophysicist on the board without increasing the size of the board (replace engineering title act representatives with a practice act geologist and geophysicist), we have to accept this as good news and a step forward. The questions now are whether or not the positions will be filled and by whom. The next governor will decide, and AEG will urge whoever that is to do so quickly. This will be a topic of discussion in the next round of legislative visits by AEG, tentatively scheduled for mid-January.

BPELS is looking for technical experts to review enforcement complaints and subject matter experts to assist with exam development. These functions do provide compensation and expenses are reimbursed at government rates. Information for each of these positions is available on the BPELS website under the Geologists tab or by clicking on the links <http://www.geology.ca.gov/licensees/tewanted.shtml> and <http://www.geology.ca.gov/licensees/smeswanted.shtml>. It's too early to tell if the geology program is a good fit with BPELS, and implementation of the Geologists and Geophysicist Act

continues to be hampered by budget constraints that have kept BPELS from hiring a licensee to manage the program, and by the Governor's work furloughs. Clearing the backlog of enforcement cases filed with the former BGG, for example, is lagging behind the efforts on engineering and land surveying cases. This is to be expected since the geology program is the new kid on the block. The recent call for technical experts is a hopeful sign, and there is some good news in that there has been recent action taken against engineers for incompetence in the practice of geology.

The debate over whether to pursue a permanent home with BPELS or seek to re-establish an independent board continues, and the results of the upcoming election is likely to influence any decisions in this regard. The long-term stability of BPELS is attractive considering the consistent attacks on the former BGG over the last couple of decades.

JTFAP: The Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice became an issue again this summer with confusing communications from both the Geo-Institute of ASCE and AIPG indicating that the document may be published without participation from AEG. We were told at the Board of Directors meeting in Charleston that the confusion with the Geo-Institute had been cleared up, but that AIPG might publish the document on their own. The most recent information from AEG President Bruce Hilton is that the document is dead, and that the Continuing Education Committee tasked with beginning a new document focused on educators and skill sets for the practice of engineering geology has made no progress recently.

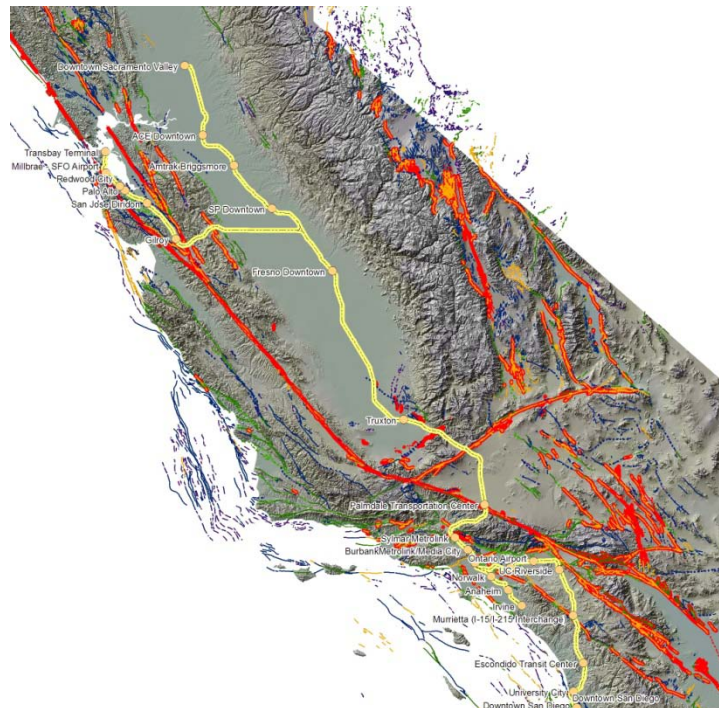
Bruce Hilton's Biography

Mr. Hilton began his career at Leighton & Associates in Southern CA in 1978 and continued his career in Northern CA with KLEINFELDER since 1993. His focus has been with Engineering Geology of private and public projects throughout the US during his 32 years in the business. He is KLEINFELDER's Chief Engineering Geologist and, in this role, he is responsible for the quality, external exposure, marketing, and mentorship throughout the firm. His experience spans both environmental and engineering geology with emphasis on geomorphology, fault studies, landslides and slope stability, GIS, dams and transportation, and soil and groundwater contamination assessments. He resides in Sacramento California with his wife and enjoys, volleyball, golf, and body surfing. Mr. Hilton can be reached by phone at (916) 366-2306 or by email at BHilton@Kleinfelder.com.



CA High Speed Train – How to Cross Active Faults at 250 mph

In 1996, CA passed legislation that appropriated funds to begin environmental permitting processes for the first US high speed rail system that could operate at speeds up to 250 mph and provide a system that would enable travelers to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 2 hours. In 2009, CA approved Proposition 1A resulting in \$10B in Bond sales followed by \$2.25B in ARRA (Stimulus) dollars that have spring-boarded system-wide project design that is now well underway. Geotechnical and engineering geologic hazards across nearly 800 miles of high speed corridor are daunting challenges. Among these, 42 active faults are crossed by the project that require analysis and mitigation to ensure passenger safety and relatively uninterrupted revenue service. This talk focuses on the history and project components of High Speed Train systems, the overall technical challenges, and in particular the risk-based methods of analysis and mitigation alternatives developed at fault crossings.



Chapter Meetings

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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/>

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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 December 31 to secure your listing.

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or call Cathy Wilson at 303-757-2926.

* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is November 27.

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.

*****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

The California Geological Survey is hiring engineering geologists.

CGS needs to recruit and hire new engineering geologists to maintain staffing levels as staff retires or moves on. This may not be the obvious time to look for a job with the state, but CGS gets most of its funding through special funds and contracts, not the general fund. When CGS needs to hire, an announcement is posted on the State Personnel Board's "VPOS" web site (<http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos>). Searching for "Engineering Geologist" there will find the positions that the State is now accepting applications for. Those currently include a position in CGS's Geologic Mapping Program. That position is listed as within the Department of Conservation. See the web page for the full job description and application instructions. Please note that to be hired by the state, a candidate must pass and place in the highest three ranks on a civil service exam. The Engineering Geologist exam, jointly developed by the Department of Conservation and the Department of Water Resources, is an online qualifications appraisal. It is possible to take the exam at the same time you send in an application, but both steps are required. The online application and "supplemental questionnaire" (exam) are at this web page.

<http://jobs.ca.gov/CASPB/sup/BulPreview.asp?R1=095699&R2=00103756&R3=9PB02>

http://jobs.spb.ca.gov/wvpos/more_info.cfm?recno=415797

Chris Wills
Supervising Engineering Geologist
California Geological Survey
801 K St. MS 12-32
Sacramento, CA 95814-3531

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