“Implementation of Geoscience Policy in California in Three Acts”

Wednesday 18-July-2007

5:00 - 6:00  Geologist Orientation  Lounge/Barroom
6:15 - 7:10  Dinner Meeting  Banquet Room
7:10 - 7:20  Election of Officers  Banquet Room
7:30 - 8:30  Meeting Presentation  Banquet Room

Cask ‘N Cleaver, Riverside
(Meeting Cost $25 - $41, Order from Banquet Menu Selections)
(includes tax/tip/gratuity for room charge)
(Fund-raising donation suggested is $5.00, or more)

This Month’s Speaker:
Stephen Testa, Executive Officer, California State Mining and Geology Board, Sacramento, California

Abstract

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees, with the purpose of providing oversight of the activities of the State Mineralogist and the Bureau of Mines, now the California Geological Survey (CGS), which were created by the Legislature five years earlier. The SMGB's general authority is granted under Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 660-678. Specifically, PRC Section 662(b) requires all Board members to "represent the general public interest". The SMGB serves as a regulatory, policy and appeals body representing the State's interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, conservation of mineral resources and reclamation of lands following surface mining activities. Working closely with CGS and the State Geologist, and the Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR), within the Department of Conservation, the SMGB oversees three primary program areas,
among other responsibilities. These program areas are the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) which also incorporates the state’s overall mineral resources management program, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Mapping Program, and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program.

Under SMARA, the SMGB is authorized to represent the State's interests in the development, use and conservation of the State's mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands, and federal matters pertaining to surface mining within the State. Under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Mapping Act, the SMGB is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing professional guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the CGS, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The SMGB is also authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations that shall be used by affected Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Under the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, the SMGB is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and state agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

Effective implementation of these programs rely essentially on three players; the SMGB, the State Geologist and California Geological Survey, and Lead Agencies. In the implementation of geoscience policy, California is unique among states in what is commonly referred to as a home-rule state, in which oversight and implementation of these programs are largely the responsibility and obligation of local lead agencies (i.e., counties and cities). There are a total of 58 counties and 478 incorporated cities in California, for a total of 536 possible lead agencies. The number of lead agencies however varies per program as in the case with SMARA. Under SMARA, 56 counties and 73 cities contain mines within their jurisdictions. With the SMGB assuming lead agency authority for two counties, several cities and marine dredging operations in the San Francisco Bay area, there are a total of 109 SMARA lead agencies. An overview of these programs and an assessment of their overall effectiveness will be discussed.

Biographical Sketch

Stephen M. Testa was appointed Executive Officer of the California State Mining and Geology Board in August 2005. From 1976 until August 2005, he served as an engineering and environmental consultant for a variety of international firms. Immediately prior to his appointment as Executive Officer of the SMGB, he also served since 2001 as a consultant and mine inspector on behalf of the SMGB. Testa is the author of 11 books and over 125 publications,

Testa is the Past-President of the American Geological Institute (AGI) and the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). Testa is past Editor-in-Chief of American Association of Petroleum Geologists – Division of Environmental Geosciences’ (AAPG-DEG’s) peer review journal “Environmental Geosciences”, and the recipient of the AIPG’s Martin Van Couvering Award, AAPG-DEG’s Research Award, and the Roy Shlemon Geology Mentor Honorarium for excellence in the application of applied earth science.

Message from the Chapter President

Election of Officers 2007-2008

Below listed is the slate of Officer Candidates nominated to the Chapter for the Election Ballot. This is for Chapter Officers for the term 1-October-2007 through 30-September-2008. The Notice of the Election and the Ballot has previously been distributed by e-Mail.

Other candidates who are interested can be “write-in” candidates after that only at the time of the Election, or as signed in a Ballot mailed (U.S. Mail, as instructed). The Official Election will occur at the meeting this Newsletter announces.

The formal Election of Officers will be held at the July Meeting. Opportunity has been provided through e-Mail for submitting votes by Mail at the designated Mail address when the Ballot is submitted by Mail. Ballots will be available at the July meeting for those wishing to Vote then although the Vote at the meeting will be by count of hands, or to write in there names as candidates for a particular position as an Officer for 2007-2008 prior to the actual voting at that July meeting.

The Election and Election process is being conducted in accordance with the AEG Bylaws, and the Chapter Bylaws.

NOTE: Only AEG Members have the right to vote, and no votes by non-Members qualify if submitted.

Installment of elected Officers will occur during the August meeting in Temecula, along with a presentation of awards.

Chapter Sponsorship for AEG National Meeting

The Chapter will sponsor three of the 50-days-worth of news advertisements/announcements in the Los Angeles Times regarding 50-years-worth of significant geologic news articles to be re-published aligned with environmental and engineering geology events from 1957 to 2007.

The Inland Empire Chapter will Sponsor 3 advertisements of the significant news regarding special articles concerning the following events:

- Hector Mine Major Earthquake
  - 16-Oct-1999, Mw = 7.1

- Landers Major Earthquake
  - 28-Jun-1992, Mw = 7.3;
  - and? Big Bear Mod. Earthquake M=5.4

- The 8.4 Magnitude “Good Friday” Alaska Great Earthquake of 1964
  - 24-Mar-1964, Mw = 9.2;
  - and? devastating Tsunami

Thanks

Thanks to the 11 professionals attending the June meeting in Temecula, as follows:

Dr. James Finegan (Speaker), Geosyntec; Mitch Bornyasz, Leighton Group; Mike Cook, Kleinfelder Incorporated; Rick Gundry, Inland Geologic; Kristin Stout, Leighton Group; Carolyn Myrer, Leighton Group; Jeff Deland, Leighton Group; Jon Cain, Petra Geotechnical Consultants; Warham Stejer, Leighton Group; Robert C. Haney, Environmental Services; Lisa Battato, Kleinfelder Incorporated.
Meeting Details and Location

Advance RSVP is required.

Location. The meeting site is located in the City of Riverside (near University of California, Riverside) just west of the University Avenue exit of US 60/I-215 construction zone, east of the US 91/US-60/I-215 interchange construction zone and northwest of the US 60/I-215 split construction zone. Most times of the day, and especially all night these areas are like parking lots or are larger construction zones involving many lane closures, sometimes with interludes of traffic that can creep along at 5 to 15 mph, and once in awhile at 40-57- mph in short-lived episodes of time., so plan accordingly:...

(Principal, by Editor, an actual witness almost daily or weekly, and in the passes, there are a few side-roads, that also that become discontinuous naturally, or are also closed, so is not real fun either, and are worse than the scant dirt ill-repaired dirt access routes, as I have explored them all)

Cask ‘N Cleaver
1333 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 682-4580

Directions to Meeting. From the I-215/US 60 Freeway in northeast Riverside, exit University Avenue to Proceed WEST about 1/6th mile crossing Iowa Avenue to prepare to turn to right. About 600-feet west of Iowa, Avenue, before Templo Del Sol restaurant, TURN RIGHT and proceed to Cask ‘N Cleaver parking area.

From US 91 freeway downtown Riverside, Exit University Avenue and Turn to Proceed east about 5-miles, and TURN Left at entrance just past Templo Del Sol restaurant, or continue about 400-feet preparing to TURN LEFT on Iowa Avenue northward, to immediately TURN Left past Shakeys to Cask ‘N Cleaver parking area.

From I-215/60 near UCR, exit University Avenue, and proceed west about 1/6 or 1/8th-mile crossing Iowa Avenue to immediately TURN Right into next exit on Right past Cocos.

Banquet Meal Menu Selection.

Select from the following 4 basic entry items:

- Teriyaki Chicken (charbroiled dbl.) $25.00
- Prime Rib (slow roasted w/ au jus) $32.00
- Crab-Crusted Swordfish (w/ pesto) $36.00
- 14 oz. New York Strip Steak (14oz.) $41.00

Banquet Dinner includes:
- Caesar Salad
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes or Rice
- Fresh vegetables (seasonal)

Soft Drinks, Iced Tea, Coffee and Hot Tea
No Host Bar available or order from Servers

Future AEG Meetings

AUG Wednesday Aug20, 2007, Temecula
— “Fecal Contamination of urban streams and beach area of Santa Barbara”

SEP Mon-Fri Sep. 24-28, 2007, Los Angeles, CA
Golden Anniversary in the Golden State
50th Annual Meeting Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists
Special Anniversary Meeting in Southern California — AEG founded in Southern California —

OCT Weds, October 17, 2007, Temecula
— “Riding the waves of San Andreas: Geologic and Engineering aspects of the 17 October 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, Santa Cruz, California”
Dr. Jeffrey Marshall, Associate Professor, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, California.

   CSUSB Geology Club & AEG Joint Meeting
   ― “Latest Pleistocene slip rate of the San Bernardino strand of the San Andreas fault”
Dr. Sally McGill, Professor of Geology, Geology Department, Cal. State Univ., San Bernardino, CA

Inland Empire Chapter Officers and Section/National Contact Information

   AEG Inland Empire Chapter, P. O. Box 8944, Moreno Valley, CA 92552-8944
   http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire

   AEG Southern California Section Web-site
   http://www.aegsc.org/

   Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (Headquarters)
   http://www.aegweb.org

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