NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 13 Nov 1984

PLACE: Stevens Steak House
      5332 Stevens Place
      Commerce

COST: $13.00, including tip.

RESERVATIONS: Leroy Crandall & Associates
               213-413-3550, ext. 50, ask for Jan
               Please make reservations by none on previous Friday.

TIME: 5:30 Social Hour
       6:30 Dinner
       7:30 AEG Business
       8:00 Speaker
       9:00 Section affairs, if scheduled.

SPEAKER: Dennis A. Evans, Registered Civil Engineer and
         Engineering Geologist.

SUBJECT: BIG ROCK: A case history in CYA; Past and Present. Dennis
         was selected in 1983 from among a pack of wild-eyed,
         frenzied geologists and soil engineers who submitted pro-
         posals to the County to study the Big Rock landslide. Sub-
         sequently, he hired several other consultants who provided
         ancillary services during his overall investigation.

         Dennis plans to discuss his work at Big Rock, utilizing
         slides (what else?) and his droll wit. One may speculate
         whether the subject matter or the speaker will be more
         interesting.

         As you recall from the sermon on the mount during the
         annual field trip, Big Rock is attempting to become a lot
         of small rocks. The subject has been studied intensely by
         Dennis and his associates who have issued a "Second Interim
         Report of Geotechnical Evaluation...", dated 20 Aug 84,
         which is available from County Engineer for about $50.00.

         Dennis, always reticent, provided no curriculum vital,
         but there's no question about the B.S.
HUGH ROBERTSON requests that your participation as a speaker will be well received. If you have suggestions, or want to enlighten us about some vague geological concept please contact Gary Guacci at Leroy Crandall & Associates (213) 413-3550.

Persons or companies interested in sponsoring a student should contact JEFF HOLT (818) 889-5174.

While you are discussing students/sponsoring with Jeff, please note his address so that you will send him your payment of $12.50 for subscription to the Newsletter and section membership for 1985. Otherwise, you may pay this one time annual charge at the November meeting.

We need a field trip chairman and suggestions for a place to go. The following committee chairmen will be seeking your participation. Affix your name on the roster at the meeting. If you cannot attend, please call and get on the list.

OFFICERS (1984-1985)

Chairman .................................. Hugh S. Robertson
Vice Chairman .............................. Gary Guacci
Secretary ................................. Steve Jensen
Treasurer .................................. Jeff W. Holt

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Editor ...................................... John D. Merrill
Membership ................................ Wayne Schick
Program ................................... Gary Guacci

Awards ..................................... Steve Jensen
Building Codes ............................. Jim Shuttleworth
Continuing Education ..................... John D. Merrill
Industrial Safety ........................ Joseph W. Cobarrubias
Legislation ................................ Bob Hollingsworth
Nominating ................................ Richard E. Lowes
Professional Ethics & Practice ........ Glenn A. Brown
Publications .............................. Ann O. Meeker
Public Information & Professional Relations .............................. Hugh S. Robertson
Representative to AIPG - Interprofessional Relations ................ Donald Asquith
Field Trip .................................. ?
Student Liaison ............................ Dave Grover

The newsletter reports your activities and presents your views, but you have to provide the basics. In order to make the deadline (whatever that is), the paper must go to the printer about 2½ weeks before the meeting - check your calendar and get the stuff in here.

Advertising rates for space-cards-or announcements are quoted by Jeff Holt (818) 889-5174.

South Coast Geological Society Completes 700 page volume on the Geology and Mineral Wealth of the California Transverse Ranges. The publication is dedicated to Mason Hill and is available for $45.00 (postage and handling included) from South Coast Geological Society, P.O. Box 10244, Santa Ana, CA. 92711.
County Counter suing in Big Rock Slide Case

By LYNDON STAMBLER, Times Staff Writer

A Los Angeles County agency, maintaining that Big Rock Mesa homeowners are responsible for a landslide that occurred in September, 1983, has filed a suit countering their damage claims.

The countersuit, filed in Santa Monica Superior Court by County Waterworks District 28's name as defendants more than 300 past and present homeowners, developers, water companies and geologists. Many of the defendants have not been involved in suits against the county.

Superior Court Judge Laurence J. Rittenband is scheduled to decide on Oct. 5 whether to allow the countersuit to proceed.

"The original owners who developed the area without sewers, and developed to the density that exists today all share in the responsibility for what happened," said Kenneth Putnam, assistant deputy county engineer.

"I'm emotionally very distressed," said geologist Eugene Don Michael, who was named as a defendant in the suit and who has been working to stop the slide. "I guess they're naming just about every guy who's ever worked in the area."

In March, about 200 residents sued the water and flood control districts, the state Department of Transportation and the state Coastal Commission for millions of dollars in property damages.

Their suit claims that the agencies, in approving the Big Rock subdivisions and building permits, were responsible for the slide. The suit also claims that the county made inadequate provisions for drainage in the area and the earth became saturated with water, which caused the slide.

In its first major response to the homeowners, the water district has claimed that homeowners, developers and geologists who developed the Big Rock Mesa area were responsible.

Attorney David B. Casselman, who represents the water district, said that 80% of the water added to the slide area came from the homeowners' septic tanks. He said the tracts were approved with the condition that homeowners would continue a dewatering program, and that homeowners have rejected attempts to install sewers in the area.

Attorneys Kenneth Chiate, a Big

Fishbeck, discussed the broker's or seller's duty to investigate for possible geological problems and to arrange for identification of any problem found and for its repair.

Potential problems discussed included those from soil and water, structural defects, borrow shipments, flood plan exposure, specific studies zones touched as earthwork and zone mapivity zoning switching and debris irregularities.

The sales people attending were encouraged to conduct their own investigation of a property—looking for repairs that could indicate a cover-up of a structural problem.

"It helps to know a bit about to the buyer," Fishbeck said. He called for the individual handling a sale to inquire, inspect, investigate, recommend an expert if problems are found and provide a written disclosure of any problem detected for the prospective buyer.

Fishbeck called the appeal court decision in the Easton and Strassburger case the largest single step in increasing real estate exposure in the last 15 years.

Artim, chief geologist for Leighton & Associates, and Jensen, a geological and senior project manager, showed slides and described how an inspection of a home and property can enable the sales representative to determine whether geological or structural problems exist.

Also discussed by Artim were various planning documents, seismic studies and geological public notices that are available through local and state government agencies that may be obtained or viewed by the agent to aid in determining whether a property is in an area likely to be a geological hazard area.

He also discussed how experts may be called in, if needed, to do visual site inspections, aerial photo studies, limited or extensive analysis of problem sites.

Costs for such assistance may run from $100 to $150 to many thousands of dollars—depending on the seriousness of the problem, he indicated.

"Sometimes we can resolve a problem by just advising a homeowner to cut back on watering lawns," Artim said. "In other cases you may have to provide site treatment of soils and vegetation to build a dammaged structure."

Leighton & Associates is based in Irvine and its offices in San Diego and several other locations throughout Southern California.