#### ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

# **AEG**

#### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION**

#### **NEWSLETTER - December 1988**

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2550 Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90057

#### **DINNER MEETING DECEMBER 13th**

- Tuesday, December 13, 1988
- The Quiet Cannon Restaurant
  901 North Via San Clemente
  Montebello, CA
- **□** \$20.00 (includes tip)
- Jerry Treiman
  (213) 620-3560 (CDMG LA Office)

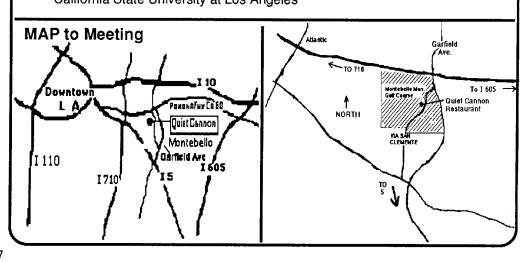
#### Make reservations by Noon on the Friday prior to the Meeting.

- ☐ 5:30 Social Hour
  - 6:45 Dinner
  - 7:30 Announcements
- ☐ 8:00 Speaker
  - 9:00 Section Affairs

#### **PROGRAM**

## Stabilization of the Portuguese Bend Landslide: Current Developments

# **Dr. Perry Ehlig**Professor of Geology California State University at Los Angeles



### **TOPIC & SPEAKER**

Stabilization of the Portuguese Bend Landslide: Current Developments

Dr. Perry Ehlig

Dr. Perry Ehlig will provide a presentation concerning the recent stabilization project for the Portuguese Bend Landslide. Dr. Ehlig is a professor of Geology at the California State University at Los Angeles. Dr. Ehlig holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Geology from UCLA. Dr. Ehlig began studying the Portuguese Bend landslide for the county of Los Angeles in 1957. His studies of the Portuguese Bend Landslide as well as other landslides in Palos Verdes have continued to date.

The present stabilization project is the most comprehensive ever attempted on the Portuguese Bend landslide. The previous attempts have met with failure. The present project includes redistribution of the landslide mass through grading, improvement of the surface drainage control, and removal of ground water. The project is being funded through the city of Rancho Palos Verdes Redevelopment Agency using a two (2) million dollar grant from the State of California.

Dr. Ehlig serves as a consultant for the city and has provided the geologic and geotechnical input for the repair concept and its implementation.

# THIS MONTH DECEMBER 1988



A couple of questionnaires on professional issues are reported this month. 1. The San Francisco Section is compiling the results of a questionnaire related to registration and professional conduct. 2. The results of the questionnaire that was in September newsletter relating to professional EG matters, as perceived by Southern California Section Membership. They were compiled by Don Lamar before he went to the Annual Meeting in Kansas City, excerpts are printed.

The intent of the enclosed San Francisco Section Questionnaire, printed on the other side of the September Questionnaire results, is an appeal to survey opinions of the profession from those of us in the Southern California area. (We are the last of the three sections to respond to the survey.) By combining our results with the results of engineering geologists in Northern California, a better understanding of the present state of the profession on a state-wide basis will be gained. Conclusions gained from the survey will probably mirror the opinions of engineering geologists throughout the U.S. These will be shared with the State Registration Board, and will be reported by AEG NEWS and this newsletter.

Please contribute to the survey by filling out the multiple-choice questionnaire and mail it to Patti Oscieki. It takes about 5 minutes to complete the questionnaire, unless you want to write out details or complaints. The deadline for sending this anonymous questionnaire to Patti is January 10, 1989.

Congratulations to Robert L Mohle and Edward A Steiner for recently becoming licensed as engineering geologists in California.

The **Dept. of Geological Sciences at San Diego State University** is anxiously soliciting matching funds for a \$150,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation for establishing a Dept. equipment fund. A provision of the grant is that it be matched dollar-for-dollar from other sources. At this time the Dept. needs an additional \$40,000. Alums may consider participating in a company/employee gift-matching program, if available, or pledge a contribution to be paid over time.

#### Board of Registration Questionnaire 7.

After forestalling the attempts of the legislature to abolish the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (SB 86) last spring, it is appropriate to ask the California members of AEG how they see the operations, role, and function of the Board of Registration. Two major issues were raised by the Business and Professional Practice Committee of the Legislature and by Senator Boatwright. Those issues were 1) lack of enforcement, and 2) a perception of lack of current training due to the large proportion of "grandfathered" licenses, for which legislated continuing education was the proposed solution.

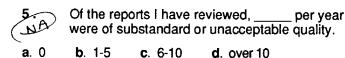
San Francisco Section Registration Committee wants to ask YOU what you think about these two issues and how you feel about the current Registration Examinations. This questionnaire is divided into three sections based on these issues. The results of the questionnaire will be reported in the AEG NEWS, to the Registration Board, and will be useful to the selected lobbyist the California Sections of the Association will hire. In addition to answering the questions, please feel free to write out your opinions, experience and ideas regarding these issues. Please Mail the questionnaire (and separate comments) to:

Patti Osiecki San Francisco Sect. Registration Comm. Chair. 411 Alger Drive Palo Alto, CA 94306

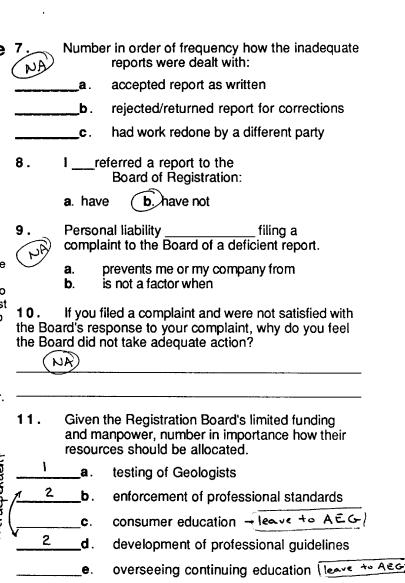
by January 10, 1989.

#### **Quality of Professional Practice**

- 1. I write or co-write geologic reports per year.
- a. 0 (b.) 1-11 c. 12-23 d. 24-36 e. over 36
- 2. I sign reports as a licensed professional (RG, CEG, GP) per year.
- **a**. 0 **b** 1-11 **c**. 12-23 **d**. 24-36 **e**. over 36
- 3. I review \_\_\_\_ reports per year:
- (a) 0 b. 1-11 c. 12-23 d. 24-36 e. over 36
- 4. I review reports for (circle all that apply):
  - a. internal review for my companyb. city government
- NA C. (
  - c. county government
  - d. state government
  - e. private sector
  - f. other (please specify): \_\_\_



- Quite often the inadequate reports are: (circle all that apply)
- a. incomplete b. fraudulent c. incorrect
- d. contain unsubstantiated conclusions
- f. incomprehensible because poorly written



- 12. If the Board allocated more resources towards enforcement it would have the following effect on the quality of professional geologic practice.
- a. greatly improve
- b. improve
- c. slightly improve
  - d. no effect
  - 13. Presently the Board can only revoke licenses. What other enforcement options should the Board have (circle all that apply)?
  - a. letters of reprimand
  - b. published letters of reprimand
  - c. fines
- (d) temporary suspension of licence
  - 14. What new services can the Board provide to promote and improve the practice of geology in California:

c. a nationally recognized accreditation service **Continuing Education** The Association of Engineering Geologists Professional d. up to the individual Practice Guidelines states the following: "A program of e. other (please specify) \_ continuing education may include pursuit of graduate degrees, attending special or short courses and technical Regarding continuing education, AEG should meetings, participation in field trips and home study of (circle all that apply): journals and textbooks." ? a. keep attendance records at monthly meetings - May be! 15. Continuing education has the following effect **b**.) provide short courses on geologic practice. c. make it mandatory for membership (a.) greatly improves d. encourage voluntary continuing education b. improves The Registration Exam c. slightly improves 22. Does the exam adequately address d. has no effect competence for practice: a. yes b. no c. undecided 16. as a geologist In the past two years I have attended the **b**. no **c**. undecided as an engineering following: a. ves geologist (0)1-2 3-5 6 or more short courses a. yes b. no c. undecided as a geophysicist (1-2 3-5 6 or more symposiums 23. Should the exam be made: (0) 1-2 3-5 6 or more college classes · a. more difficult b. the same c. less difficult 8 3 (0)1-2 3-5 6 or more internal training for geologists 1-2 3-5 professional 6 or more a. more difficult **b**. the same c. less difficult society meetings for engineering geologists 17. Continuing education should be: နှာ a. more difficult c. less difficult b. the same (a.) required by law उ for geophysicists b. voluntary with guidelines from the Board 24. Certification as an engineering geologist is c. voluntary, up to the individual adequate to practice in hydrogeology: I would like to see the following applied toward c. undecided a. yes continuing education (circle all that apply): A separate certification for hydrogeologists is (a.) any course in a related technical subject needed: b. management training/ quality control c. undecided h no c) regulatory topics General Information **d** authoring professional papers I hold the following licenses in California: presentations at professional society meetings a.) registered geologist by exam (f) attending professional society meetings b. registered geologist by "grandfathering" g) attending field trips (c) certified engineering geologist by exam h. other (please specify) d. certified engineering geologist by "grandfathering" e. registered geophysicist by exam If continuing education is made mandatory, how many actual hours should be required in a two year period? f. registered geophysicist by "grandfathering" g. not registered a. 1-10 **b**.)11-20 c. 21-30 **d**. over 30 h. other license: 20. Who should administer continuing education? Should require When done please forward to: Patti Osiecki (a.) Board of Registration 411 Alger Dr

should help

meed the

.....FINIS

Palo Alto, CA

94306

**b**. professional societies

#### RESULTS OF SEPTEMBER 1988 NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

The September Southern California Section Newsletter contained a questionnaire asking the member's opinions concerning the value of AEG publications and support of registration for geologists by hiring a lobbyist. There were 57 responses which Don Lamar compiled. On a scale of 0 to 10 the items received the following support:

AEG Bulletin:	5.79
National Newsletter:	6.37
Southern Calif. Sect. (SCS) Newsletter:	9.13
SCS fieldguides:	6.89
Books for 1966 & 1973 National Meets:	7.18
Support of registration:	8.12

The results suggest that AEG should hold the line on costs of the Bulletin and National Newsletter to postpone any increase in dues as long as possible. Many of the members provided long and thoughtful comments, a sampling of these follows:

#### Membership Forms:

Takes too long to process membership applications. Membership forms are very confusing!

The incredible complexity of membership forms to become part of an all volunteer society seems crazy!

The elaborate requirements and procedures for becoming a member of National AEG as well as the high cost make seeking membership almost "not worth it" or impossible. Finding 3 full members sufficiently familiar with ones work to be a sponsor can be a major impediment. (DL) COMMENT: The membership forms have been simplified. The AEG SCS Newsletter will announce when the new membership forms are available and who to get them from (ed.).

#### Registration:

I do not support registration because it is a restraint of trade. If the pressure to remove State Registration is still a real threat then \$15/year is worth it for a lobbyist. Lobbyist is essential to retain Geology Board.

I do not support money for lobbyist, individual members should lobby.

AEG is overly politicized by a small cabal of strident militants who wish to use registration to enhance their fees and aggrandize their self image. More will be gained by a few thousand spent on field trips, seminars and student outreach than tens of thousands on lobbyist.

The current geology registration act must be changed from a title act to a practice act which defines geology and engineering geology. Then geologists must stay within their areas of expertise as defined by the Government Business and Professions Code.

#### Monthly Meetings, etc.:

I like your finishing time of about 9PM for monthly meeting.

The local AEG fails to provide anything except a night off; with some notable exceptions the speakers have been weak; the local committees have accomplished nothing, if formed at all, yet we are buying a lobbyist? There needs to be a very serious upgrade in the hardware, if the meetings continue at the Quiet Cannon we've got to get a real audio visual system with microphones and slide changers and a higher screen and light pointer for the attendants to either see or hear what they are not currently hearing or seeing!!!

Monthly meeting place should be moved around so that those living outside the LA Basin could attend more conveniently. Next year at least four (4) meetings at other locations (ed.).

As traffic gets worse and as "Los Angeles" expands perhaps it is time to split the Southern California Section into 2 or 3 separate sections. To attend the last section meeting I spent 4 hours on the road, much at 15 to 20 mph.

San Diego members of the Southern California Section are virtually ignored. It is impossible for those of us who have to work for a living to attend monthly meetings and the meetings topics have nothing to do with San Diego geology. (DL) COMMENT: Perhaps the San Diego Members should consider forming their own section.

#### Publications:

I'm not overly impressed by the more costly National publications.

Although, I don't seem to find the time to read many articles in the Bulletin, it would be a damn shame to reduce it's quality or the quality of other publications.

Should consider changing Bulletin to twice/year with each publication concentrating on a specific topic (i.e. faulting, landslides) or region (southern California, lowa).

Cost cutting should begin with administrative costs NOT with professional publications which is what it's all about.

I hope that the Bulletin can continue as is.

If eliminating Bulletin would cut dues by 50% or so and we became a lobbying organization, I would tend to support the move. If eliminating Bulletin only saved \$10/year, keep things the way they are.

Make Bulletin a quarterly to reduce cost.

I score the AEG Bulletin low because it has very few papers of significance. Part of the problem is that members are too tired and busy to prepare papers. We need to press for members to submit good papers or have a committee invite papers and keep pressure on the authors to produce.

#### Education and related items:

Should add a local Committee on Government Agency Affairs to unify ordinance standards at local agencies (individual who suggested this should follow through and do it).

AEG and its sections ought to be doing more in the following: 1. short courses for professional upgrading; 2. short courses for preparation for state exams; 3. tapping into the considerable know-how of retired and semiretired members.

AEG needs an educational program to clarify standard and ethical practice.

AEG should provide more case study reviews and lectures to help educate the ever increasing number of young uncertified staff geologists.

There needs to be some attempt towards continuing education requirements for license renewal which may stimulate the membership a bit.

#### Comments about AEG and costs:

There is no excuse not to be a paying member of AEG at both the National and local level if you call yourself an engineering geologist.

I do not feel the cost of membership is excessive.

AEG must continue to be a high visibility national organization with clout or we will be run over and eliminated.

I found National AEG aloof and unresponsive.

Cost of membership is too high which is why I dropped out (this member still belongs to the local section and we are glad to have him).

A real presence (paid help) can only work positively for the National AEG.

I don't believe dues for either National or local AEG is too high.

#### Ethics and related matters:

AEG should consider expulsion of members who advocate, without basis, that other members have committed malpractice, i.e. kick out the hired guns.

The following indicates that the membership lacks any true appreciation of ethics: 1. Recent elimination of the Code of Ethics, 2. Continued incorrect use of the Skempton and Delong equation rather than challenging the local agencies who advocate its use. 3. Refusal of the consultant members to question L.A. County's improper interpretation of Sections 308 and 309 of the Building Code.

## Consultant-government geologist relations:

Geologists who work for the City or County aren't engineering geologists, they are bureaucrats; I have no feeling of 'camaraderie with government geologists; let them pay their own dues like I do!

I work for the County of Los Angeles and have asked my coworkers why they don't attend AEG meetings; time and money are always excuses, but many simply don't want to be harassed by private consultants who have a bone to pick, chip on their shoulder or are just antigovernment.

(DL)COMMENT: I still feel that it very unfortunate that many government geologists do not attend meetings because of the above attitudes; although consultants and reviewers must at times disagree, positions will only be hardened if both sides can't get together once a month and NOT discuss business. Any consultant who takes a reviewer to task at a meeting is indeed a bore!!

It is simply incredible that government geologists are intimidated when they come to the section meetings(ed).

#### Miscellaneous comments:

We need to educate and spend more time and money toward a united front against the increasing trend toward litigation.

A "Governmental Affairs Council" should be established to focus on industry concerns. These heavy hitters would take on the OSA, EPA, FHA, NEWS, etc. in order to modify or enact policy. This group should be funded with \$500/year dues from individual companies ((DL) individual who suggested this should follow through).

The quality of exhibitors at National Meetings should be improved with more equipment manufactures and book publishers.

Annual Meeting Chairmen should solicit papers more actively including invited ones and panel discussions on controversial EG topics to improve the quality and attendance of meetings.

Keep the speaker's abstracts coming in the Section Newsletter; it helps those of use too far away to attend meeting to keep up on what's what. Thanks.

#### .....FINIS

As January approaches it is once again the time to renew your annual subscription/ membership for the AEG Southern California Section. Instead of the usual \$15.00 per year, the ante has been raised to \$20.00 per year. The \$5.00 increase is to go to the fund to support a lobbyist in Sacramento that will represent the interest of AEG members and geologists/engineering geologists registered in California.

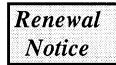
Your dues are part of the overall non-profit operation of the Association of Engineering Geologists Southern California Section. Your dues go toward 1) the publication and mailing of the monthly newsletter, 2) paying for dinners for needy students at the monthly meetings, 3) paying for dinners for the monthly speakers, 4) expenses for field trips, 5) printing of special publications & reports, 6) awards, 7) keeping you up-to-date on engineering geology, and notifications for professional activities. Your dues will now also provide funds for support of a lobbyist in Sacramento to represent our interests.

(Please remember to complete and mail, by 1-10-89, the enclosed San Francisco Section Board of Registration Questionnaire so the lobbyist will know what our interests are.)

The present number of newsletter subscribers total 300. They are listed in a newly developed computer spreadsheet/database. All of the designated subscribers will now have featured on their mailing labels, to the right of their names, the month that their subscription will expire. If you disagree with the date that is displayed please contact Jerry Treiman - Treasurer (213) 620-3560(CDMG LA office) or Eldon Gath - Secretary (714) 598-2856. It may take a couple of months to get everyone caught up on the list.

Send your \$20.00 check for the 1989 dues to:

Jerry Treiman, AEG SCS Treasurer c/o California Division of Mines and Geology 107 S. Broadway, Room 1065 Los Angeles, CA 90012



Besides your name, address and telephone number for the mailing list, could you also include your FAX number, if available, for future reference.

#### SEMINARS/MEETINGS/FIELD TRIPS

**DECEMBER 1988** 

- 6-11 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting. San Francisco, CA. CONTACT AGU Washington, D.C., (800)424-2488.
- 6-8 A Conference on the Premiere Ground Water Protection Strategy for the Nineties. New Orleans, LA. CONTACT: NWWA, 6375 Riverside Dr., Dublin, OH 43017 (614)761-1711.

**JANUARY 1989** 

31-2/2 Theory and Practice of Ground Water Monitoring and Sampling. San Diego, CA. CONTACT: NWWA (614)761-1711.

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AEG Newsletter Editor Kelly E. Rowe PLEASE PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION PHOTOGRAPH ALONG INFORMATION FOR A SPRING 1989 EXTION OF A SPECIAL DIRECTORY OF SECTION MEMBERS ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO:

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Santa Monica, CA 90403

D. L. Lamar, AEG Directory

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