



ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

MEETING
ANNOUNCEMENT &
SPEAKER ABSTRACT



SACRAMENTO

Section Meeting Date:	August 9, 2005, 6:00 - 9:00 PM (Tuesday)	
Meeting Location:	Hard Rock Cafe in Sacramento (At the corner of 7th and K, on the Downtown Plaza)	
Meeting Time:	6:00 - 6:45	Sign-In & Social Hour
	6:45 - 7:45	Dinner
	7:45 - 8:00	Announcements
	8:00 - 8:45	Talk & Slide Show
	8:45 - 9:00	Questions & Answers



The 2004 Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami: Lessons for California

SPEAKER: Dr. Lori Dengler
Humboldt State University

Abstract

A discussion of results from the April, 2005 International Tsunami Survey team study of Indonesia's Aceh province and mitigations lessons for California. The 2004 earthquake produced comparable tsunami heights to the last great earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone in 1700. The earthquake produced permanent land level changes - significant uplift in Simuelue Island and subsidence along the Sumatra coast that is also similar to the Cascadia region. The majority of the casualties in the 2004 tsunami can be attributed to a lack of awareness of natural tsunami warning signs.



Dr. Lori Dengler
Professor of Geophysics
and
Geology Department Chair
Humboldt State University

Lori Dengler is a Professor and Chair of the Geology Dept. at Humboldt State University and an expert on tsunami hazards and tsunami mitigation. She was a member of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) Steering Committee from 1996 to 2003 and authored the Strategic Implementation for Mitigation Projects for the NTHMP. Dr. Dengler was the first recipient of NOAA's Richard Hagemeyer Tsunami Mitigation Award (shown above) for her leadership and involvement in the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group, community education activities in Del Norte and Humboldt counties, California, the NTHMP, and other activities promoting and supporting tsunami mitigation. She was a member of post tsunami survey teams to Papua New Guinea (1998), Southern Peru (2001), and Indonesia (2005), is currently studying the tsunami hazards of San Francisco Bay and is completing a monograph on the 1964 tsunami in Crescent City, California.

A Message from Your Board

By Nate Manley

Well here we are, another delightfully blistering summer in the Sacramento Valley! No doubt you are all thoroughly enjoying the scorching heat while you go about your daily frenetic routine of managing projects, personnel and clients. And when you do reach the end of a long day of work you are undoubtedly glued to your computer researching the latest legislative developments regarding the fate of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG)! Wait...what's that? You haven't been keeping up on this breaking news? You don't know what the "Governator" is doing now?

Of course for many of us (including your's truly) the sad fact of the matter is that we get so wrapped up in the daily routine of managing business and projects that we are not well informed about what is really going on with our profession and just who it is we will have to answer to if the BGG ceases to exist. Fortunately for us there are some very dedicated individuals within our profession and (more importantly) within AEG that have been working hard to keep up with these developments and who are actively looking out for the interests of professional geologists in California.

In this month's newsletter we have published an updated summary and discussion of recent legislative activity regarding the fate of the BGG and have outlined a proposal for action. This summary, discussion and position statement is the product of many hours of diligent work on the part of many individuals within AEG. In addition to their other professional responsibilities many of our own members have given their time and energy in following and actively engaging in the effort to retain the BGG and protect the interests of working geologists in California. Bruce Hilton, Eric Chase and Marcia Kiese, to name a few, have put a lot of effort into looking out for our professional well being during this time of political upheaval. We should consider ourselves very fortunate indeed to have people such as these looking out for us!

So next time you're baking away at the bottom of a test pit, buried up to your neck in quarterly reports or vigilantly keeping an eye out for naturally occurring asbestos on a grading project, remember that there are some very extraordinary people working hard to maintain the health of your profession despite their own similarly hectic schedule. So when you happen to see them at the next AEG meeting, be sure to say thanks and offer to buy them a beer.

I sure plan to.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting!

Nate

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL
(OR E-MAIL BY CLICKING LINK BELOW)

To: Lisa Breckenridge (Wallace-Kuhl & Associates, Inc.)

e-mail: LBreckenridge@wallace-kuhl.com

Phone: 916.372.1434

Fax: 916.290.5429

From: _____

Or you can sign up online at:
www.aegsacto.org

Subject: August 2005 AEG Sac Section Meeting

Date: August 9, 2005 (**Tuesday Evening**)

Place: **Hard Rock Cafe**
7th and K Streets, Sacramento (Downtown, see map below)

Time: 6:00 PM - Social
6:45 PM - Dinner
7:45 PM - Announcements
8:00 PM - Speaker
9:00 PM - Close Meeting

Meal options include a Bacon Cheeseburger, Cajun Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Veggie Burger, Pulled Pork Pig Sandwich or a Caesar Salad.

Meal cost for members with RSVP is \$25.00. Non-members and walk-ins are \$27.00
All sandwiches are served with french fries and coleslaw. All meals include a dessert and your choice of coffee, tea or soda.

Notes*: First 5 RSVP Students Eat For Free; Subsequent Student RSVP's Cost \$5;
Student Walk-Ins Cost \$10 ;
Alcoholic beverages for those over 21 are available in the meeting room
on a cash basis.

Parking is available in the Downtown Plaza parking garage. Be sure to bring your ticket to the meeting so you can have your parking validated by the restaurant.

AEG-SAC Section
<<http://www.aegsacto.org>>
Contact List

2005/Officers & Committee Chairs

Section Chairperson:

Bruce Hilton
Kleinfelder Inc.
3077 Fite Circle
Sacramento, California 95827
(916) 366-1701
bhilton@kleinfelder.com

Vice-Chairperson:

Darcie Forma
Wallace-Kuhl & Associates, Inc.
3050 Industrial Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 372-1434
dforma@wallace-kuhl.com

Secretary:

T. Nathan Manley
Geocon, Inc.
3160 Gold Valley Drive, Suite 800
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742
(916) 362-5879
tnmanley@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: (Vacant)

Membership Chair:

Pat Fischer
Blackburn Consulting Inc.
3265 Fortune Court
Auburn, CA 95602
(530) 887-1494
patf@blackburnconsulting.com

Legislation and Regulatory Affairs:

Marcia Kiese, Chair
California Department of Transportation
5900 Folsom Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95819
(916)227-6942
marcia_kiese@dot.ca.gov

National Newsletter Correspondent:

Stephen Testa
Testa Environmental Corp.
(209)754-1422
stesta@goldrush.com

Scholarship Chair:

Keith Millard
Youngdahl Consulting Group, Inc.
1234 Glenhaven Court
El Dorado Hills, California 95762
(916) 933-0633
mail@youngdahl.net

Webmaster (Vacant)

for more information, contact Nate Manley

North Valley Chapter:

Jim Bianchin, Chapter Chair
Curry Group, Inc.
6724 Lockheed Drive, Suite 4
Redding, CA 96002
(530)223-1277
jbianchin@currygroup.com

Sponsorship Chair:

Eric Chase
ENSR Northern California
(916) 362-7100
echase@ensr.com

FATE OF THE BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS & GEOPHYSICISTS (BGG)

Background

For some time the Governor's staff has been working on ways to reduce state government, to "blow up the boxes" or eliminate many boards and commissions with the goal of reducing state spending. With respect to the fate of the Board for Geologists & Geophysicists (BGG or Board), there were two proposals, beginning last year with the California Performance Review (CPR). The CPR recommended that the Board be eliminated and its functions transferred to the State Mining & Geology Board (SMGB). Before the debate on the proposals in the CPR was completed, it was taken off the table and the Governor's staff released a revised proposal in January 2005 called the Governor's Reorganization Plan (GRP 1). This plan also recommended the BGG's elimination but would place its functions directly under the Department of Consumer Affairs as a bureau. Both plans received a lot of criticism and were rescinded by the Governor. It was uncertain what new proposals might be forthcoming (see below).

Meanwhile, the existing system to evaluate the effectiveness of consumer boards continued to operate. Every five years each California board undergoes a review by the bipartisan Joint Legislative Sunset Committee, currently headed by Senator Liz Figueroa (D- Fremont). This committee reviews and evaluates the performance of the board in question and may require that specific changes be enacted as a condition of its recommendation to extend the board for an additional five years. Alternatively, the committee may recommend or allow a board to be "sunsetting".

The Board for Geologists and Geophysicists recently passed its fourth evaluation by the sunset review committee. Sen. Figueroa authored a bill, SB 228, to extend the BGG to the year 2012. The bill appeared to be well on its way to approval until just a few weeks ago, when our lobbyist, Judy Wolen, was notified by the DCA's office that they planned to oppose SB 228 unless it was amended to merge the BGG with the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BPE&LS). DCA's stated rationale was that "the small size of the Board's licensee population and its limited staff resources discourage the efficient administration of its responsibilities", but the general belief is that this is simply the Governor's agenda.

The Legislature is currently not in session, but some time after they return on August 15 a vote will be taken in the Assembly on whether or not to approve SB 228. It has already passed the Senate. Even if SB 228 should pass in the Assembly, it is likely the Governor will veto the bill. If SB 228 does not pass, in July 2006 the BGG will cease to exist as a board and will become a bureau under the DCA.

Discussion points

- There are only two geology boards in the USA: California and Washington (2 yrs old)
- CA tends to set the bar; whatever happens to BGG sends a message nationally
- BGG is entirely supported by our license fees
- Proposal to eliminate boards (such as BGG) has more to do with public perception, and nothing to do with staff efficiency
- If BGG merges with another board (BPE&LS) we would have one seat on a 9 member board consisting of five public members, one land surveyor, two engineers and one geologist.

- Also in one area refer to SB 288 instead of SB 228 we lose one seat on the board, and per Judy Wolen, may never get separate board status back
- Per Judy Wolen, BGG cannot merge with SMGB because it is not a licensing board
- Senator Figueroa has been very supportive of our profession; we should continue to support SB 228
- If SB 228 doesn't pass, BGG is sunsetted and becomes a bureau under DCA in July 2006
- Per Judy Wolen, if BGG becomes a bureau, it might be easier to regain board status in the future than if it's already merged with another board
- New legislation can be introduced in January
- Regarding board vs. bureau, the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) notes the following distinctions:
 1. A board is subject to application of Bagley-Keene Act, Gov. Code 11120 *et seq.* (open meeting act / sunshine provisions)
 2. A board format provides continuity between administrations (institutional memory)
 3. A board has greater independence than a bureau.

Factors to Consider in Creating a Bureau from a Board:

1. Resources of agency
2. Need for expeditious decisions
3. Executive versus quasi-legislative character / importance to agency function
4. Value of group decision-making structure
5. Public importance of agency decisions and value to exposure / transparency

Our Section's Proposed Action

- 1) Continue to support the BGG by distributing FLOOR ALERT letters of support to Assembly members prior to their vote on SB 228
- 2) Send letters in support of SB 228 to Governor
- 3) If the BGG is slated to be sunsetted and become a bureau under DCA in July 2006, we can introduce new legislation in January 2006 to either restore the BGG as an independent board or possibly establish a new licensing function within the SMGB. Much will depend on the political climate at that time, including whether or not Governor Schwarzenegger wins a second term.
- 4) Another option would be to merge with BPE&LS and lobby strongly for the best possible position.
- 5) Senator Figueroa will be termed out next year, so we need to cultivate a stronger relationship with other legislators such as Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, a Republican representing the San Luis Obispo area, who is also a geophysicist with a doctorate from UCSB.