



# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

MEETING  
ANNOUNCEMENT &  
SPEAKER ABSTRACT



## SACRAMENTO

Section Meeting Date:	January 25, 2005, 6:00 - 9:00 PM ( <b>Tuesday</b> ) <b>Sudwerks in Davis</b> , 2001 Second Street, adjacent to	
Meeting Location:	I-80: get off at Richards, turn right, right on 5th, then right on L St ;left on Second St to Sudwerks, under the Pole Line Rd bridge superstructure fronting I-80 Fwy.	
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



## RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HISTORIC VIRGINIA AND TRUCKEE RAILROAD, LYON, STOREY, AND CARSON COUNTIES, NEVADA

**SPEAKER:** David Bieber,  
Geocon Consultants, Inc. Rancho Cordova,  
California

### Abstract

Efforts are under way for the reconstruction of a 17-mile section of the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad (V&T) between Carson City and Virginia City, Nevada. The V&T Railroad linked Reno and the silver mines and mills of the Comstock from 1870 until the tracks were pulled up in 1941. Application was made in 1993 by Carson City to the Federal Highway Administration, resulting in the granting of \$2.2 million of Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funding. Under the terms of the grant, these funds are administered by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) through an inter-local agreement with the Tri-County Railroad Commission (now the Northern Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, which includes five counties). The funds were specifically intended for an environmental assessment of the entire route (now complete) and the design and construction of the first 1.4 miles of the project.

The first 1.4-mile portion includes significant engineering geological and engineering obstacles including the crossing of an abandoned mine pit, excavation and encapsulation of acid generating mine waste rocks, stabilization of the rail bed by an abandoned mine shaft, and the installation of a monitoring system to detect earth failure for an area where a mine shaft has been buried by mine wastes.

At this time the final plans for the 1.4 mile segment have been submitted to NDOT and will go to bid this year. Other accomplishments on the remainder of the project include:

1. The donation of four miles of track from the Reno "Retrack Project"
2. The donation of a mainline bridge for the crossing of US Highway 50
3. The granting of much of approximately eight miles of right of way from the BLM
4. The issuance of five million in bonds for the project by Carson City

Momentum for the project is now at a point that the final design for the remainder of the project is underway with completion of the project estimated as 2008. Remaining engineering tasks include taking the 50% plan set for the remaining project to the 100% level. The primary tasks to reach that level will include:

1. Development and processing of environmental permits and plans,
2. Preparing a project hydrology and wetlands assessment,
3. Geotechnical engineering evaluation of a collapsed tunnel,
4. Engineering geology assessment of slopes adjacent to the trackway,
5. Characterization of mine wastes in and adjacent to the project right-of-way,
6. Engineering geologic investigation and geotechnical design for a bridge, and
7. A project constructability analysis.



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## David W. Bieber, RG, RGP, CEG, CHG

AEG National President

Geocon Consultants, Inc.  
Rancho Cordova, California

David Bieber is the Geological Services Manager for Geocon Consultants, Inc. in Rancho Cordova, California and a member of the Sacramento Section. David is a California Registered Geologist, Registered Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist, as well as a Wyoming Registered Professional Geologist. His current areas of professional practice include naturally occurring asbestos, abandoned mine land assessment, and the provision of integrated geological support for active construction projects.

Dave could almost claim to have been doing geoscience from childhood, since his dad is a geological engineer and geophysicist who was taking him along to job sites from the time Dave was five years old. Dave started working as a geoscience technician for his dad's company as a teenager, and over the years, he has worked in oil and gas exploration, searched for underwater treasure, constructed antennas for talking to submarines, and practiced engineering geology doing Geohazards, environmental geology, and hydrogeology.

David received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pathobiology with a minor in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Connecticut, finished his undergraduate geology studies at the Colorado School of Mines, and received a Master of Science Degree in Geology from the University of Colorado.

His other interests include raising Morgan horses, hunting, writing poetry, and competitive shooting. Dave is also a professional outdoor writer and has a book due out this fall on Africa and African hunting.

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR***

In one form or another, I suspect that nearly all of us became geologists because of our desire to marry the fascination we have with the earth and its forces and a burning need to give something back to our society and community. Each of us does this in our own way. As is the case with most natural disasters, especially large landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions that can be so severely damaging, we do all we can preventatively and then offer our expertise to “clean up” when the earth takes its toll. For me and I am certain for many of you, the Malaysian Tsunami that has now claimed more than 175,000 lives was a very extreme case of this. These before and after aerial photos tell the story very well.



Figure 1. Aerial Photograph of Island of Banda Aceh, Indonesia taken June 23, 2004



Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of Island of Banda Aceh, Indonesia taken December 28, 2004

On December 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Christmas, a magnitude 8.9 earthquake just northwest of the northern tip of Indonesia near Banda Ateh was the source of a massive tsunami that generated destructive waves and tidal surge along essentially every shoreline throughout the Indian Ocean. To put this in perspective, the current estimate of lost lives is the nearly half the entire population of the City of Sacramento – Gone.



So what can we do? We can and should assist in this cause both technically and financially. As we speak, a team of EERI geologists, seismologists, and engineers was deployed to the Indian Basin to evaluate the damage and assist in the mitigation design. I want to use our Newsletter and website to post this information so that each of us can contribute to this cause in our own way.

- ❑ EERI Tsunami Disaster Team: EERI Contact: Susan K. Tubbesing, 510-451-0905
- ❑ UNICEF: [www.unicefusa.org/tsunami](http://www.unicefusa.org/tsunami)
- ❑ American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org/donate/donation-form.asp](http://www.redcross.org/donate/donation-form.asp)
- ❑ Intl. Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI : <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/itic/>

This information is also posted on our website at [www.aegsacto.org](http://www.aegsacto.org). I would like to propose that our Section make a donation on behalf of the AEG to one of these relief funds. Our Board will discuss this with you at or next dinner meeting at Sudwerks on January 25<sup>th</sup> so please try to be there. Again, in some small way, we will have a positive impact on this terrible disaster. Thanks for your contribution in whatever way you can.

Bruce Hilton  
Sacramento Section Chair, AEG

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(OR E-MAIL BY CLICKING LINK BELOW)

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Or you can sign up online at:

[www.aegsacto.org](http://www.aegsacto.org)

Subject: January 2005 AEG Sac Section Meeting

Date: January 25, 2005 (Tuesday Evening)

Place: **Sudwerks in Davis**  
2001 Second Street, Davis

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

Dinner will be buffet style and will include a vegetarian lasagna (Spinach and broccoli, layered with lasagna noodles, melted mozzarella cheese and parmesan cheese, topped with a white cream sauce) and Sudwerks Sauerbraten (tender marinated beef and gravy). Accompaniments will include Caesar salad, steamed vegetables and mashed potatoes.

Cost is \$25 for members (with RSVP) and \$27 for non-members\*

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



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AEG-SAC Section  
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