AEG Sacramento Section

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Location: Aviator’s Restaurant, Sacramento Executive Airport
6151 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Lots of free parking! [Link to map]

Speaker: Ms. Sandra Flint and Mr. Eric Chase, HDR Engineering, Inc.

Topic: “Geoarchaeology - The Context of Prehistory"

Agenda:
5:30–6:30pm – Social hour and student posters
6:30-7:30pm – Dinner
7:30-8:30pm – Speakers: Ms. Flint and Mr. Chase
8:30-8:45pm – Questions

Meeting Cost: $25 members (with RSVP) and $30 non-members
There will be a $3 surcharge for no RSVP
$5 students (no surcharge for student walk-ins)

Student Sponsorships welcomed! Sponsor a student for $20

We now have PayPal – you can register and pay online at the AEG Sacramento Section Website

You may RSVP by going to -- [http://www.aegsacto.org](http://www.aegsacto.org) or by sending an email to: Tim.McCrink@conservation.ca.gov
As archaeologists endeavor to place recovered cultural resources into a time and cross-cultural context, an understanding of the origins of local soil and other near-surface materials from which the artifacts are recovered is often of paramount importance. Additionally, past and present soil formation processes and evidence of soil disturbance that affect cultural resources in specific ways must also be well understood in the proper interpretation of the integrity of a given archaeological site. Understanding of pedogenesis, soil stratigraphy, diagenesis and secondary mineralization, soil mechanics, bioturbation, chemical precipitation, fluvial processes, mass wasting processes, weathering effects, and geochronological sampling provide significant added value in documentation and interpretation of cultural resources encountered. Also important to archaeologists is the identification of source materials exploited for the manufacture of stone tools. Understanding the location, distance from sites, and qualities of parent rock sources assists archaeologists in the interpretation of prehistoric trade, travel, and resource selection. Scientific processes such as x-ray fluorescence and obsidian hydration analysis aid in these interpretations. Examples of the inseparability of the disciplines of geology and archaeology include sites in Alaska, the Channel Islands offshore of Southern California, the Egyptian Sahara, and the western Sierra Foothills.

**Eric Chase** is a senior engineering geologist and hydrogeologist with HDR Engineering Hydropower Services in Sacramento, California. He has over 37 years of experience in consulting on a wide range of projects including dams, land-use planning studies, fault investigations and seismic studies, tectonic research, forensic geology, tunneling, environmental consulting, hydrogeologic consulting, mining, and litigation support as an expert witness.

**Sandy Flint** is an archaeologist and manager of the Cultural Resources Group with HDR Engineering Hydropower Services in Sacramento, California. She has more than 30 years of experience in the identification, assessment, recovery, and interpretation of archaeological sites in the western United States, including Alaska.