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May 19, 2005

RE: California Specific Exam

Mr. Craig A. Copelan, Board President
Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A
Sacramento, CA 95833-2926

Dear Mr. Copelan:

The California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) strongly supports the Department of Consumer Affairs Office of Examination Resources' (OER) recommendation that the California Specific Exam (CSE) be evaluated by a "focus group consisting of subject matter experts...and facilitated by a test development expert..."

In a Memorandum dated April 28, 2005, Tracy Montez, Chief of the OER recommends that the focus group "should be convened to evaluate the current scope of practice in relation to the 2000 OA [occupational analysis]..." They also state "Professional testing guidelines recommend that an OA be conducted every five years." More significantly, the OER finds that the OA "did identify competencies and knowledge unique to practice in California..."

Most, if not all, of the writers of the letters and emails received by the BGG in support of or against the CSE have never seen the exam, and therefore, the validity of those positions is questionable. A proper evaluation of the CSE as recommended by the OER is a fair method of evaluating the exam's relevance and effectiveness. Only after this review can a valid decision be made regarding eliminating the CSE.

We strongly recommend review of the CSE by a focus group, and of the occupational analysis by the Office of Examination Resources as proposed by the OER, and as agreed to during the April 29, 2005 Board and Examination Committee of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists meeting.

Sincerely,



Jason Preece, PG
President, California Council of Geoscience Organizations



Charles Nestle, PG, CEG
Vice President, California Council of Geoscience Organizations

cc: Paul Sweeney, BGG Executive Officer
CCGO Board of Directors