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Sixth Annual Sacramento Drive-In

CCGO Delegates drove, flew, and hitchhiked (or at least shared a ride) to our state capitol from all over California to attend the 6th Annual CCGO Sacramento Legislative Drive-in (Lobby Day) on Wednesday March 2, 2005.

Present to advocate on behalf of the many CCGO geoscience organizations, members, and businesses were CCGO President Jason Preece (AEG), Charles Nestle, CCGO Vice President (AEG SoCal), Jim Jacobs, (AIPG), Rick Blake, CCGO Secretary (AAPG) and former CCGO President; Jennifer Davis, AWG Delegate, Matthew Hawley, AEG Southern California delegate, and Judy Wolen, AEG Lobbyist and CCGO Legislative Analyst.



Back, left to right; Matthew Hawley, AEG So Cal; Jim Jacobs (Former CCGO President, AIPG, GRA), Jason Preece, CCGO President, AEG Sacramento; Rick Blake (AAPG, CCGO Former President); Front, left to right: Charles Nestle (CCGO VP, AEG So Cal); Judy Wolen (CCGO and AEG Lobbyist); Jennifer Davis (AWG Student Representative).

The CCGO 6th Annual Sacramento Drive-In started in the morning with a meeting with Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG). George Dunfield, a senior staff geologist with the BGG, also attended the meeting. We discussed Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plans for the 88 boards that were being reviewed just a few months ago. We also discussed upcoming proposed legislation and bills to watch. Later we met with

geologist John Parrish of the State Mining and Geology Board (SMDG). Dr. Parrish had also been the Executive Director of the BGG several years ago, so he was well aware of the issues of concern to geologists. The meeting with the SDMG was informative. Before lunch the CCGO delegation met with the California Geological Survey (CGS). The CGS had several presenters, including Michael Reichle, Acting State Geologist. The CGS discussed the need to continue their programs and funding. Over the past two or three years, the CGS budgets have been cut drastically. Even with significant cut backs, they have retained their high quality staff by working on projects for other agencies. As such, the landslide-mapping program, for example, has not moved ahead as originally planned. Since California has had an exceptionally wet year in late 2004-early 2005, landslides might become more commonplace in the near future.

After lunch in the California State Capitol building, we met with representatives Carol Liu, Joe Nation, and Sam Blakeslee. Selected delegates met with representatives of Senator Tom McClintock and Assemblyman Chuck Devore. Representative Blakeslee has a PhD in geophysics and could easily relate to geologic issues. Joe Nation has seen the CCGO delegation for the last several years. He explained his recent hospital bill, which combines knowledge of seismic risks with cost priorities of hospitals.



Rick Blake (Past CCGO President; AAPG) presents the CCGO Legislator Award to Senator Liz Figueroa for her support of the geologic profession in California.

The CCGO delegation also met with Senator Liz Figueroa. The Senator has been a great supporter of geologists over the years through her involvement with the Business and Professions Committee. During our brief meeting, CCGO Past President Rick Blake presented the Senator with a CCGO plaque honoring her contributions to the geologic professional community

(See photo). Due to California term-limits, CCGO's friend in the California Senate, Senator Figueroa, will be termed out shortly. Consequently, her advice to the delegates was to work with other new leaders who will be able to help the geologic profession in California.

The CCGO 6th Annual Sacramento Drive-In was successful. We are pleased to say that in part, because of CCGO's lobbying and letter-writing activities, the BGG is a strong board and is not currently slated for elimination. The drive-in reminded the delegates that the personal relationships that we develop with legislators is key when issues such as professional registration and geologic practice can be rapidly changed for better or worse by the desires of others.

Fundraiser for CCGO – Northern and Southern California

Joint AEG/CCGO Meetings will be held on May 10, 2005 (Southern California) and May 12, 2005 (Bay Area), featuring Dr. Joyce Blueford, who will describe the Math/Science Nucleus and her recent work at the Tyson Lagoon, a sag pond outlining the trace of the Hayward fault zone in part of Alameda County. The Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon Wetland Center, under the guidance of the Math Science Nucleus and Alameda County Flood Control District, has opened this 14-acre facility to celebrate not only its rich geologic past but to act as a facility that shows how urban life can coexist with nature areas. This is one of several sites that the Math/Science Nucleus is developing in the Fremont area. More information on the Tyson Lagoon site and others in the east bay can be found at: <http://msnucleus.org/watersheds/index.html>. The three California Sections of AEG have long supported the efforts of CCGO in advocating on behalf of the geosciences professions in the public interest. Locations, costs, and directions to both the Northern and Southern California fundraisers will be announced as soon as they are finalized. For more information go to the CCGO website, <http://ccgo.org>

BGG Sunset Review Report

The Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions and Consumer Protection held their Sunset Review Hearings on January 6, 2005. Charles Nestle, CCGO Vice President (cnestle@ladpw.org) and Marcia Kiese, AEG Sacramento, were in attendance, and spoke on behalf of retaining the Board of Geologists and Geophysicists. Governor Schwarzenegger issued a press release the night before the meeting, after his State of the State address, listing the 100 Boards and Commissions that would be targeted for elimination or reform. The list had been sent to the Little Hoover Commission to review and

make recommendations, and their report, dated December 10, 2004, recommended the BGG be retained. CCGO sent a letter on January 19, 2005 to Senator Liz Figueroa, chair of the CPR Committee, strongly supporting the BGG as it currently stands.

Update on the California Performance Review

The Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Charlene Zittel, and three of her staff, met with eight representatives of CCGO and other California organizations, including AWG, AEG, and GRA, on Valentine's Day in Sacramento. The meeting was suggested by Director Zittel in order to bring up topics of concern to both parties regarding the California Performance Review, as well as the Governor's Reorganization Plan. Jason Preece, CCGO President spoke eloquently in favor of keeping the BGG in its current state, bringing up several lines of reasoning to further CCGO's position. As a result of a number of meetings and letters regarding the Governor's Reorganization Plan, Governor Schwarzenegger wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Little Hoover Commission, concluding that it will benefit from further review. We applaud the Governor's wisdom in recognizing that this plan was not well-thought out, and thank him for his courage in publicly recognizing this.

IUGS Natural Hazards Statement

A resolution of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) regarding Natural Hazards is particularly apropos in light of the BGG issues currently being addressed by our legislature. The statement is at http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/iugs_hazards_statement.htm

Remember to get your new stamps!

With the Governor's signature on SB1914 in Fall 2004, all Registered Geologists are now identified as "Professional Geologists", effective January 1, 2005. This name change brings California licenses in line with other states that license Geologists. Your wall certificate and pocket licenses are still effective. Based on the Geologist and Geophysicist Act, the professional geologist and certified specialty geologist seals will need to be updated with the term "Professional Geologist". The titles Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) are still valid and are not affected by this change. Registered Geophysicists (RGP) did not have their license renamed. For those interested in getting a new stamp, the specifications can be found at: http://www.geology.ca.gov/laws_regs/sect3008.pdf.

Fees Increased as of January 1, 2005

Also effective January 1, 2005, the biannual fee for Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist is being increased from \$50 to \$100, and the fee for Professional Geologist and Professional Geophysicist is being increased from \$200 to \$400.

Geologist-In-Training

New legislation (SB 1914) allows college graduates with majors in Geology to take the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) "Fundamentals of Geology" exam, which is given once a year on the first Friday of March. Eligibility: BA/BS degree in Geology. Students graduating in May, August and December 2005 will be eligible to take the exam in 2006. More information at www.geology.ca.gov

Dibblee Maps Released

On February 23, 2005, the Dibblee Geology Center of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History released ten new maps of the San Francisco Bay area and the San Joaquin Valley region created by legendary Thomas W. Dibblee. This set of 10 maps will complete a major section of northern California mapped by Dibblee himself. The exciting process of digital map-making enables the Dibblee Geology Center to complete maps of interest in a timely manner while preserving the integrity of Dibblee's work. For more information contact Mary Anne Prince at mprince@sbnature2.org, or call 682.4711, ext. 122. To purchase Dibblee maps go to the Museum's online store at www.sbnature.org/estore.

Online Geoscience Events Calendar

Members, supporters, and geoscience organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and professional organizations are invited to enter their meetings and events on our new interactive calendar. Email your events, including date, time, city, event, and contact email or phone number to janehgill@stanfordalumni.org. All events and meetings will be subject to the approval of the website administrator.

OUR MISSION: To advocate the use of sound geologic knowledge and practice by proposing, reviewing, and monitoring statutes, regulations, and public policies

OUR VISION: The Council will be a leader of recognized integrity in advancing programs and legislation that take into consideration California's diverse geologic conditions, advocating knowledgeable use of resources, and working to reduce the impact of geologic hazards.