

CCGO Highlights

A Publication of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations

An Advocate for the Profession in the Public Interest

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CCGO Well Represented at the July 9 Retirement dinner for California State Geologist Jim Davis

Al Franks (CCGO Supporter and consultant), Rick Blake (CCGO Vice President and President-elect), Jim Jacobs (CCGO Past president and a GRA Board Member), Pat Berge (Treasurer of the SF Bay Area Chapter of Association for Women Geoscientists), and Bob Tepel (CCGO Founder and member of the State Mining and Geology Board) all attended the Retirement Dinner in honor of California State Geologist, Jim Davis, held on July 9 in Sacramento. Davis retired June 30 after 25 years as State Geologist.

Under his quarter century of leadership, the California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) became the California Geological Survey (CGS), whose mission is to provide information and advice to the public on the geology, geologic hazards, and mineral resources of California. Jim Davis has overseen the assembly of a dedicated and quality professional staff to further this mission, especially to provide information for the improvement of public safety, including the design and oversight of DMG geologic mapping and geohazards programs.

Davis leaves behind an impressive legacy of contributions to the field of geology, and even in retirement he will stay involved in a number of organizations, such as the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, the

American Geological Institute, and the Consortium of Organizations for Strong-Motion Observation Systems. And, we hope, CCGO, too!

CCGO has long been an ardent supporter of the CGS, and a recent email and letter campaign to retain funding for the CGS was enormously successful.

CCGO provides much needed support for CGS Programs with email and letter writing campaign

After a rapid flurry of emails and letter requests to support the Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP) and Seismic Hazards Mapping Program (SHMP) of the California Geological Survey, we received the good news that both programs were retained, at least for a year. Both programs were in danger of being cut in the recent legislative session due to the state budget crisis.

The good news is that SMIP was granted a \$1.0 m. augmentation to the current budget of \$3.4m. This program provides instrumentation to measure the motion of structures during seismic events critical in assisting emergency response to locations impacted by the strongest ground motion and to assist in retrofit activities. In addition, SHMP was granted a reprieve by passage of the Governor's proposal, which augments this program by \$1.2 m. to back-fill the funding gap for one year.

The SHMP program is funded by building fees dedicated to seismic safety and funded by those fees at the \$1.9m level in FY 02-03. The Governor would be expected to continue supporting his proposal for these two

programs. To be notified for future support requests, please contact janehgill@ccgo.org.

A member of CGS sent out an email recently, saying that “many individuals and organizations such as Association of Engineering Geologists, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (to name just a few) helped us share information about the budget cuts and also kept CGS informed about legislative responses to inquiries regarding the proposed cuts. All of you helped us to coordinate a successful campaign to save the CGS.”

Legislative analysis on 29 new bills provided by CCGO member organization, Association for Engineering Geologists

The current legislative session ended September 12, 2003 and the Governor has until October 12th to sign or veto bills. A list of 29 new bills that have been monitored for AEG this session are posted on the CCGO website, www.ccgo.org/legislation1.html. Please look over the analyses, and respond to CCGO or the AEG Sacramento Section contract legislative advocate at jwolen@aol.com.

Applicants Still Sought for Legislative Research Grant

CCGO is continuing to seek someone to assist us in researching and compiling information from existing lists of geoscience-related regulatory databases. CCGO will provide a stipend of \$1000 for this work, and the applicant will be considered for future paid work. For more information, please go to www.ccgo.org or contact the CCGO Executive Director at JaneHGill@aol.com. Email only, please.

CCGO Highlights is a publication of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations. There are four issues per year, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. We publish news and items of interest to the member organizations and businesses of CCGO. Member organizations, member businesses, and supporters are welcome to submit articles, items of interest, and news of their membership to the editor, Jane Gill, Executive Director of CCGO, at janehgill@ccgo.org