

CCGO Planning for 5th Annual 8-hour Legislative "Drive-In" March 30

Plans are well underway for the 5th (yes the FIFTH!) annual CCGO Sacramento Legislative Drive-in on Wednesday, March 30. This is an annual event in which delegates from the CCGO Organizational and Business Membership meet with California Legislators, bringing up points of interest to our membership and the public. The themes this year are seismic safety, geologists' registration, groundwater resources, and science education. CCGO also supports legislation to protect the environment, increased diversity in the sciences, and the wise use of natural resources.

Meetings are already scheduled with representatives of the California Geological Survey and the Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists, and we are working out the details of meetings with members of the California Senate and Assembly, as well as members of the Board of Education, Department of Conservation, and the Governor's staff. Delegates will spend the entire day in Sacramento, meeting in the morning with the CGS and BGG, enjoying a short lunch at the Capitol, and reserving the afternoon for members of the Assembly and Senate, Boards of Education and Conservation, and Governor's Staff.

CCGO delegates Jim Jacobs, Rick Blake (CCGO President), and Tim Parker (GRA Representative) have already signed up for the CCGO Delegation. Members of other CCGO Organizations or Businesses who want to contribute their time and energy are welcome and encouraged to call or email our Executive Director to add your name to the list of Delegates. Delegates will be given a brief overview of what is expected of them, asked about their backgrounds in the geosciences, and given prepared CCGO handouts, such as the CCGO Fact Sheet, History, and CCGO Positions on current legislation.

Request for geoscience professionals for letter and phone tree

CCGO is assembling on a phone tree to help get out the information when speed is critical for support of a position on a Legislative action. Please email us at janehgill@aol.com.

Geology Board Loses Eight Permanent Employees in Three Years

The Geology Board 'lost' its Staff Services Analyst position in November, which reduces the overall staffing for the Board to three permanent employees. In the course of three years the Board has gone from 11 authorized positions to 3. This announcement from Paul Sweeney, Executive Director of the BGG, is alarming.

The Board's Mission is to enhance the quality, significance and availability of geological and geophysical services to the people of the State of California, and because of the significant loss of funding in what appear to be blind budget cuts, the Board's vision of a "state in which qualified, regulated geologists and geophysicists function optimally in a competitive environment in making their contributions to the public health, safety and welfare" has been seriously impaired. Please make your feelings about this situation known to BGG EO Paul Sweeney at Paul_Sweeney@dca.ca.gov

Current Legislation Reviewed by CCGO Organizational Members AEG and GRA

Legislation currently under review by Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) is at www.aegsacto.org. These bills concern engineering geology issues. Some of the important bills and the issues involved are:

- ❖ AB 83 (Bottled water)
- ❖ AB 496 (Santa Ana River Conservancy)
- ❖ AB 1195 (Subdivision Map Act: exemptions)
- ❖ AB 1265 (Engineers and land surveyors: limited liability partnerships)
- ❖ AB 1353 (Waste discharge requirements: exemption)
- ❖ AB 1367 (Waste regulation)
- ❖ AB 1517 (Stormwater)

(continued)

AB 83 (2003-2004) , Corbett and Firebaugh: SEN APPROPRIATIONS (Version (amended sen) 2003-08-27)

- Topic: Bottled water.
- Last Action: Re-referred to Com. on APPR. (2004-01-12)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is on the Senate Floor.
- Digest Summary: Existing law, commonly referred to as the California Safe Drinking Water Act, imposes various functions and duties on the State Department of Health Services with respect to the administration of the act, and requires public water systems to comply with recommended public health levels for contaminants in drinking water established by the department.
- This bill would transfer the provisions relating to the licensure and regulation of persons engaged in the above bottled water activities from the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law to the California Safe Drinking Water Act.

AB 496 (2003-2004) , Correa: SEN (Version (amended sen) 2004-01-22)

- Topic: Santa Ana River Conservancy.
- Last Action: Read third time, amended. To second reading. Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W. pursuant to Senate Rule 29.10. (2004-01-22)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is on the Assembly Floor and has been amended.
- Digest Summary: This bill would, until January 1, 2012, establish the Santa Ana River Conservancy to acquire specified lands within 1/2 mile on either side of the thread of the Santa Ana River and would prescribe the management, powers, and duties of the conservancy.

AB 1195 (2003-2004) , Cohn: SEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Version (introduced) 2003-02-21)

- Topic: Subdivision Map Act: exemptions.
- Last Action: In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author. (2003-06-11)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is in Senate Local Government.
- Digest Summary: Existing law makes the Subdivision Map Act inapplicable to specified land uses or interests in land, including, among other things, leases of agricultural land for agricultural purposes and requires that a local agency, as defined, may not acquire real property for specified purposes nor construct or authorize a public building or structure in any county or city that has adopted an applicable general plan until the location, purpose, and extent of the acquisition or disposition of real property, or the proposed public building or structure has been submitted to the local planning agency for review.
- This bill would exempt a regional park and open space district from these provisions.

AB 1265 (2003-2004) , Benoit: SEN JUDICIARY (Version (amended asm) 2003-05-05)

- Topic: Engineers and land surveyors: limited liability partnerships.
- Last Action: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (2003-07-10)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is in Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Digest Summary: (1) Existing law, the Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, provides for the licensing and regulation of engineers and land surveyors. This bill would additionally authorize an engineer and a land surveyor to practice within the scope of his or her licensure as a limited liability partnership.

AB 1353 (2003-2004) , Matthews: SEN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (Version (amended asm) 2003-05-06)

- Topic: Waste discharge requirements: exemption.
- Last Action: Referred to Com. on ENV. QUAL. In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (2003-06-12)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is in Senate Environmental Quality Committee.
- Digest Summary: (1) Existing law, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, with certain exceptions, imposes on a person for whom waste discharge requirements have been prescribed, an annual fee established by the State Water Resources Control Board, not to exceed \$20,000, but subject to an annual adjustment, on the basis of total flow, volume, number of animals, threat to water quality, and area involved. This bill would provide that a person who stores liquid wastewater in a holding tank and periodically transports the liquid wastewater to an authorized disposal facility is not subject to waste discharge requirements and is subject to the payment of an annual fee of \$50, if the appropriate regional board determines that the discharge will not have a significant impact on the environment.

AB 1367 (2003-2004) , Laird: SEN (Version (amended sen) 2003-09-08)

- Topic: Waste: regulation.
- Last Action: To inactive file on motion of Senator Sher. (2003-09-09)
- Anticipated File: SEN INACTIVE FILE - ASSEMBLY BILLS (Item # A- 23) (2004-01-26)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is in the Senate on inactive file but is expected to move this year.
- Digest Summary: (1) Existing law establishes various standards for management and control of hazardous waste. This bill would authorize the department to adopt alternative management standards by regulation, for hazardous waste management activities that meet specified criteria.

(continued)

AB 1517 (2003-2004), Plescia: ASM ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS (Version (amended asm) 2003-04-07)

- Topic: Stormwater.
- Last Action: Joint Rule 61(a)(2) suspended. (Com. on NAT. RES. and E.S. & T.M.) (Ayes 77. Noes 0. Page 1379.) (2003-05-01)
- Position: Watch
- Note: This bill is dead for this year.
- Digest Summary: Under existing law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California regional water quality control boards regulate the discharge of stormwater in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would foster science-based, environmentally beneficial, results-oriented, and cost-effective water quality programs that draw on the strengths of municipalities that administer stormwater permits and the state and regional water quality control boards.

Several key pieces of legislation concerning groundwater issues currently being monitored by the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) include

- ❖ AB 1020 (Laird) – Public Water Systems: Civil Actions: Contaminants;
- ❖ AB 1546 (Simitian) – Local Governments: Vehicle Fee for Stormwater;
- ❖ SB 1089 (Johnson): State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund;
- ❖ SB 1089 (Brulte) Water Security: Clean Drinking Water: Management;
- ❖ SB 1155 (Machado): Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

For more information, go to the GRA website, www.grac.org.

CCGO May General Meeting and Fundraisers to Feature Geophysics Pioneer Dr. Tanya Atwater

The CCGO Board met on February 9 to discuss the upcoming CCGO Fundraisers and General Meeting on May 11. The Fundraiser in Northern California will be held in conjunction with the Association of Engineering Geologists, and will feature Dr. Tanya Atwater, a pioneer in plate tectonics theory. Dr. Atwater graduated from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1972, in an era when women were not as welcome on geoscience expeditions. She nevertheless participated in the very first research trip to study a seafloor-spreading center, which resulted in her first publication, the lead article in *Science*, a well-regarded journal.

Dr. Atwater went on to lead the first all-woman cruise, *Aphrodite*, in 1968, and was one of the first female scientists to contribute to the theory of plate tectonics. For more information on the Fundraiser, see the complete article at www.CCGO.org.

CCGO connects the experts with teachers to benefit middle school students

Last December, Sequoia Middle School teacher Allen Sauté was organizing a walking field trip for students at his school, and found that he knew little of the geology of Point Mugu State Park. However, he saw our website, www.CCGO.org, contacted us, and after a flurry of emails, had his trip structured.

The four geologists who served as trip leaders for the Sequoia field trip were: Dr. Eugene Fritsche, Professor Emeritus, California State University



Northridge; Leni Field, part-time instructor at CSU Northridge; Scott Moors, Principal Geologist, Bing Yen & Associates; and Butch Brown, Geological Consultant. Scott Simmons, of Gorian & Associates, and President of the Coast Geological Society, helped with the search for geology trip leaders, but did not himself serve as one.

Dr. Fritsche began the hike with some introductory remarks to the whole group in the parking area before they left, utilizing clay models of what they were going to be seeing. Scott Moors of Bing Yen & Associates provided each student with colored geological map of the area they were to be hiking.

There were seven stops along the trail, which Dr. Fritsche marked to provide focal points for an explanation of the unique geology. Pillow lava, basalt dikes, dacite, volcanic breccia, black shale, fossil fish scales, oyster fossils, were all talked about. Formation processes, strike and dip, sediments, volcanics, and plate tectonics were all explained to the curious students and parent volunteers.

The geologists, parent volunteers, teachers and 97 students were quite a caravan along the narrow, seven and a half mile trail! The trip was a huge success, and the students are still talking about the outing, some even going back to the park to share their knowledge



with friends and family. Dr. Fritsche said that he would be available to provide geology information to other Middle School students and their teachers for future events. For more information on Point Mugu State Park, go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=630.

Please support your state parks as irreplaceable teaching tools for every generation.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

State Agency is Offering Examination

The State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), is offering an exam for the Engineering Geologist seRIES. DTSC uses engineering geologists to work on groundwater investigations and the remediation of hazardous waste sites. Geologists are also used to evaluate the suitability of the location of hazardous waste sites based on the geologic hazards. The engineering geologist can be used as either project managers or as in-house technical consultants.

The final filing date is March 19, 2004. The exam bulletin was released on February 20, 2004, and will have more information regarding the scope of the exam. You may download the exam bulletin (http://intranet/departamental/exams/pdf_files/egbulletinpdf.pdf) and a State application from www.dpa.ca.gov. To learn more about DTSC, please visit their web page at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Lucero, Exam Coordinator, at (916) 322-8669 or via email at mlucero@dtsc.ca.gov.

Membership Renewals Encouraged

CCGO is encouraging Organizational or Business Members who have let their memberships lapse a bargain by offering a two year membership to former members who renew before the May Fundraisers. This is in appreciation to members who have been long-time supporters of CCGO, but because of the current state of the economy, have had to cut corners wherever they can.

Business Members are encouraged to send in their opinions, ads, and announcements to CCGO Highlights at janehgill@aol.com.

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. Members and supporters are welcome to submit articles, items of interest, and news of their membership to the editor, and Executive Director of CCGO, at janehgill@aol.com.

www.CCGO.org