

# CCGO Highlights

*A Publication of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations*

*An Advocate for the Profession in the Public Interest*

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## **Annual CCGO Review of CGS and BGG**

As an advocate for the Profession in the Public Interest, it is CCGO's responsibility and obligation to critique the CGS on an annual basis. These reviews have been provided by CCGO Former President and Membership Chair James Jacobs of AIPG. The complete CGS and BGG Reviews are online at [www.ccco.org](http://www.ccco.org), and have been sent to subscribers of the CCGO email list.

### **CGS REVIEW**

In spite of budget cuts and attempts by others in the legislature to damage the CGS by funding cuts, the CGS has maintained the numerous important programs they provide to the state. Although there has been a change in leadership (Dr. Jim Davis, California State Geologist for 25 years, retired in June), it appears that the programs will all continue. Obviously, the CGS is doing a lot with less funding and employees. We believe that areas to improve include other sources of funding. One potential source of revenue that has been discussed is to associate the data, maps, and other resources with specific property addresses, allowing the public to obtain digital versions of this information for a fee. This digital service could be performed on-line by contracting with an outside vendor to manage and orchestrate the database service. Michael Reichle is currently the Acting Director and Acting State Geologist of the CGS

Three CGS geologists, Ron Churchill, Chris Higgins, and Bob Hill have been selected by the Association of American State Geologists and the Geological Society of America to receive the John C. Frye Memorial Award for 2003 for best paper on environmental geology. CCGO congratulates the CGS and the winners of the award.

### **BGG REVIEW**

Because of recent budget cuts, all but three full time positions were eliminated from the BGG during the past year. In spite of this, the Board, under Executive Director Paul Sweeney, continues to do exemplary work in maintaining the quality of professional standards practiced by geologists, geophysicists, and hydrogeologists in California.

During this last year, Senator Figueroa, who also chairs the Business and Professions Committee, sponsored two bills on the Board's behalf. Senate Bill 1079, which reduces the experience requirement for admittance into the Board's Registered Geologist licensing examination, was signed into law by Governor Davis and becomes effective on January 1, 2004. Governor Davis recently signed SB 363, which increases licensing fees. This should improve the Board's fund condition.

Enforcement remains the Board's highest priority. During the last year, more than \$40,000 has been collected by the Board due to enforcement actions. The Enforcement Unit continues to pursue aggressive enforcement activity among licensees and non-licensees in the fields of environmental geology, engineering geology, site assessments and seismic mitigation areas.

The Board continues to administer the national examination for Registered Geologists with an additional California-specific test. The number of these, along with Certified Engineering Geologist, Certified Hydrogeologist and Registered Geophysicist applicants, showed a substantial increase from previous years. Approximately 225 new licenses (RG, CEG, CHG and RGP) were issued this past year.

Outreach for consumers, students and the geologic community was enhanced with the

improvement of the Board's website, which continues to be a significant source of information to the public about the Board's many activities.

CCGO is pleased with the progress in the enforcement actions and other outreach programs that the BGG has been running over the past few years. The BGG is serving the California public well by performing the appropriate duties in an excellent manner

## **EDUCATION ALERTS**

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### **Call for Nominations for 2004 Teacher of the Year Award**

CCGO member organization AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) Foundation is presenting a \$5,000 national award, to be given to a K-12 teacher for Excellence in the Teaching of Natural Resources in the Earth Sciences. Additional awards are being offered by the NCGS – for more information, go to <http://www.ccco.org/2004-NCGS-TOTY.pdf>

### **Geologists needed for school field trip on December 12**

Geologists are needed to help lead nearly 100 middle school students on a field trip to Point Mugu State Park on December 12. We are in need of three (or more) geologists to lead us in a hike of the Newbury Park side of the Sycamore Canyon area in Point Mugu State Park. The hike would lead us down into the canyon, and up Fossil Trail to observe the fossil remnants of the ocean floor. Along the way we would stop to observe some of the geological formations visible along the road cuts and discuss the parks major geology. Stops at various points would be about 5 minutes maximum. Dates and identification of the fossils are needed. Contact Allen Sauté, Sequoia Middle School (805) 498-3617 x1101 or [asaute@conejo.k12.ca](mailto:asaute@conejo.k12.ca)

### **Progress in 2003**

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As we head into the last quarter of our legislative year, we can look back at some great progress we have made towards forging CCGO into 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. In addition to posting the latest AEG analyses of relevant upcoming legislation, we have posted the annual reviews of the CGS and BGG, and sent out a number of email alerts to our mailing list requesting prompt action in sending letters of support. If you would like to have your name, phone number, or email address put on our alert list, please go to [www.ccco.org](http://www.ccco.org) and click on the Contact button.

## **ELECTIONS AND PLANS FOR 2004**

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CCGO Board of Directors meeting and annual elections are scheduled for November 15. We extend our warmest thanks to Sue Jagoda, our President for 2003, and Vice President and Secretary for the previous two years; to David Abbott, our Secretary and a BOD member for several years, too. Special thanks are due to Anne Cavazos, of Cavazos Environmental, who has been the CCGO Treasurer since 1998.

Our heartiest welcome to incoming President Rick Blake, AAPG representative, who has been on the CCGO Board of Directors for several years, and an officer for two. We also welcome Jason Preese, of AEG SF, our new Vice President, and Sue Jagoda, Secretary and our former President.

We are already making plans for the March Legislative Drive-In, May General meeting and Fundraisers, and several Educational events during the year. We also wish to thank our 2003 Organization and Business Members, some of whom have been involved with CCGO from the beginning. Thank you for your support!!

*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 [janehill@ccgo.org](mailto:janehill@ccgo.org)