



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS  
*San Francisco Section*

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Announcing the October 2008 San Francisco Section Meeting

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## HOW GARBAGE BECAME AMERICA'S FUTURE

Howard Wilshire and Jane Nielson

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### MEETING DETAILS

**Restaurant:**

Sinbad's  
Pier 2 Embarcadero Street  
San Francisco, CA

**Date and Time:**

10/14/08  
6:00 pm—Social Hour and Sign-in  
7:00 pm—Dinner  
8:00 pm—Presentation

**Cost:** \$35 AEG members, \$40 non-members, \$15 Students

**Meal Choice:** Chicken, Beef, Fish, and Vegetarian – you do not need to send in your meal choice.

**Reservations:** To RSVP, fax or e-mail Sachiko Tanikawa by **12 PM, Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**.  
(fax # 866-400-4068, email: [treasurer@aegsf.org](mailto:treasurer@aegsf.org)) with the following information:

(1) Name (2) Phone number/e-mail

**Driving Directions:** From the Bay Bridge, take the Fremont Street Exit and then Folsom Street Ramp. Go left on Folsom Street, then left onto the Embarcadero (Herb Caen Way). Sinbad's is on the right.

**BART Directions:** Exit the Embarcadero Station; walk up Market Street toward the Ferry Building (less than ½ a mile). Cross Embarcadero, Sinbad's is to the right of the historic Ferry Building.

**Parking:** \$3 valet parking is available or you can park at a meter somewhere on a side street off the Embarcadero.

**Please make reservations by noon FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>; availability cannot be guaranteed after Friday.**

**\*\*Walk-ins are not guaranteed!\*\***

For financial reasons no-shows and last minute cancellations will be charged.

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See next page for abstract and speaker biographies.

# HOW GARBAGE BECAME AMERICA'S FUTURE

## Howard Wilshire and Jane Nielson

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### ABSTRACT

Howard Wilshire and Jane Nielson will discuss garbage and other wastes to illustrate the core message of their book, *The American West at Risk: Science, Myths, and Politics of Land Abuse and Recovery*, a science-based guide to the origins of mounting resource degradation and depletion in the western United States. In layman's language, the book explains how logging, industrial-scale farming, public lands grazing, mining, military training, urbanization, and motorized recreation have impaired the natural functions that once produced clean air and water supplies and have threatened or extinguished many native species, while enhancing erosional and flooding processes that spread pollution widely. In addition, the book discusses the polluting effects of mammoth urban/agricultural wastes, and energy developments and their threats to the safety of water supplies and the health of humans and wildlife, and explores the environmental impacts of non-petroleum energy alternatives.

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Howard Wilshire** earned a BS degree in geology from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the U.S. Geological Survey as a research geologist after 5 years of teaching geology at Sydney University and research at the Australian National University. His 35-year USGS career included geologic mapping, Apollo astronaut training and lunar research, studies of processes operating in the earth's upper mantle and lower crust, and broad-ranging studies on geologic processes at the land surface. His surface process studies focused on environmental impacts of human activities in arid lands, including off-road vehicular recreation, radioactive waste disposal, energy developments, military activities, utility corridor construction, grazing, mining, road-building, earth art, waste disposal, centralized wind and solar energy developments, and other subjects. Dr. Wilshire is Board Chairman of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a national environmental organization.

**Jane Nielson** earned three degrees in geology and geochemistry. After receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1974, she taught Environmental Geology and other courses at California State University, Hayward, then worked for the U.S. Geological Survey as a field and research geologist, specializing in many aspects of Mojave Desert geology. After retiring from the USGS in 1997, Dr. Nielson taught geology, petrology, geochemistry and environmental geology courses at Pomona College, Claremont, California, and has lectured on geological and environmental topics in her home area of Sonoma County, California. She is a co-founder of the Sebastopol Water Information Group and serves on the board of directors for the O.W.L. (Open-Space, Water, and Land Conservation) Foundation, which researches and disseminates information on water development and land conservation issues, and advocates for sustainable local, statewide, and national land and water policies.

**Richard Hazlett**, who is the co-author of the book, *American West at Risk: Science, Myths, and Politics of Land Abuse and Recovery*, will not be presenting at this meeting.

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Thank you for the RSVP! See you on **Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**.