



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS  
*San Francisco Section*

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Announcing the May 2009 San Francisco Section Meeting

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**California State Board for Geologists and Geophysicists  
Past, Future and Present  
AND  
Geophysical Techniques for Dam Studies**

William E. Black, G.P.  
NORCAL Geophysical Consultants

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**MEETING DETAILS**

**Restaurant:**

Sinbad's  
Pier 2 Embarcadero Street  
San Francisco, CA

**Date and Time:**

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
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 May 8<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 the Folsom Street Ramp. Go left (east) on Folsom Street, then left (north) onto the Embarcadero (Herb Caen Way). The driveway for Sinbad's is on the right, south of the historic Ferry Building. Please watch out for the pedestrians and cyclists when turning into the driveway. Thank you.

**BART Directions:** Exit the Embarcadero Station; walk up Market Street toward the Ferry Building (less than ½ a mile toward the Bay and to the east). Cross Embarcadero and Sinbad's is located next to the Alameda ferry pier on the south side 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.

\*To assist us with reservations and to help the restaurant with the set-up, please RSVP in advance. Walk-ins are welcome, but not guaranteed. No shows and late cancellations will be charged.

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See next page for abstracts and speaker biographies.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Board for Geologists and Geophysicists was established by statute in 1968. The purpose of the Board is to protect consumers and public safety by ensuring that people practicing geology and geophysics in the State of California have sufficient education, work experience, and knowledge to competently carry out their duties. California is one of 34 states that currently license the practice of geology and one of only two states (the other is Texas) that license the practice of geophysics. Mr. Black will briefly describe the history of the Board, its current make-up, and recent changes that have taken place. He will also describe some notable enforcement cases that are a matter of public record.

As a follow-up to last month's topic regarding the application of geology to dam design, Mr. Black will also describe several geophysical techniques that are applicable to dam studies and how they are applied. Geophysical techniques such as seismic refraction, seismic reflection, surface wave analysis, electrical resistivity, streaming potential, and borehole imaging provide non-invasive, high resolution, and relatively low cost methods of assessing subsurface characteristics that are relevant to dam design, dam construction, and dam safety analysis.

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

William E. Black earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology in 1970 and a Master of Science degree in 1974, both from the University of California at Riverside. From 1972 to 1984 Mr. Black worked as a geophysicist at Harding Lawson Associates in Novato, California. In 1984 he joined NORCAL Geophysical Consultants in Cotati, California and became Vice President and co-owner of that firm. Mr. Black specializes in the application of geophysical techniques to a wide variety of geological, geotechnical, and groundwater investigations. He has conducted geophysical investigations throughout the United States and in several foreign countries including, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Paraguay. In 2002 Mr. Black was appointed to the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists by Governor Gray Davis. In 2006 he was reappointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and served for two years as President of the Board.

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Thank you for the RSVP! See you on **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**.