

**Meeting Details:**

- Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 2009
- Sinbad's, San Francisco
- 6 p.m.- Cocktail Hour
- 7 p.m.- Dinner
- 8 p.m.- Speaker
- \$40 members, \$45 non-member, \$15 student

RESERVATIONS DUE BY NOON,
December 4TH !!

**SECTION OFFICERS -
2010-2011****Chair**

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CCGO Liaison

Position open
Please contact Bill Godwin at
chair@aegsf.org if you are
interested in volunteering.

DECEMBER 2009 PROGRAM**Assessment of Potential Fault Rupture Hazard at
Briones Dam, Orinda**

SPEAKER: HANS ABRAMSONWARD, CEG, AMEC GEOTMATRIX

ABSTRACT:

Briones Dam is a zoned, rolled earthfill embankment dam that impounds Briones Reservoir, a terminal water storage reservoir in the hills northeast of Orinda that is owned and operated by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). During its construction in 1964, traces of the Pinole fault were observed in the outlet tunnel and in the left abutment; however, at that time, the fault was not considered an active fault. Recent maps prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) show traces of the Pinole fault crossing a significant portion of the upstream slope and a second splay extending beneath the right abutment and groin area of the dam. Studies by the USGS and several other investigators suggest that portions of the fault may be Quaternary active. In response to these recent studies, the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) considered the Pinole fault to be conditionally active and a potential fault-rupture hazard to the dam. In cooperation with EBMUD and DSOD, AMEC Geomatrix performed an investigation to assess the fault rupture hazard at Briones Dam that included an extensive desktop study, geomorphic mapping, borings, and shallow test pits and trenches. This work did not provide unequivocal evidence that the Pinole fault has been inactive during the past 35,000 years (per the DSOD definition of an inactive fault); however, several lines of evidence for absence of activity along the southern part of the fault were identified. Based on these considerations, AMEC Geomatrix recommended that the southern part of the Pinole fault (south of Castro Ranch Road) not be considered an active or conditionally active seismic source.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY:

Hans AbramsonWard, CEG, is a Senior Geologist with AMEC Geomatrix with more than ten years of professional consulting experience related to hazards and engineering projects worldwide. He received his B.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley and M.S. in Geology from Humboldt State University. His areas of expertise include Quaternary geology, engineering geology, tsunami hazards, and seismic source characterization for both probabilistic and deterministic seismic hazard analysis. Project examples range from regional hazard assessments for nuclear power generating facilities, United States Department of State facilities, pipelines, power transmission networks, and offshore developments to site-specific geotechnical and/or hazard studies for dams, tunnels, bridges, hospitals, and water treatment facilities.

This month's newsletter was compiled by Marina Mascorro (Newsletter Editor) and Sachiko Tanikawa (Section Treasurer). If you would like to pitch in by volunteering as newsletter editor, or even as a newsletter assistant, please let us know. Hopefully, we can keep these newsletters alive – member participation will be a key for this section's success. Thanks!

Committee Chairs

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Awards Chair

Position open
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The AEG San Francisco Section Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the San Francisco Section of the AEG.

For more information, visit www.aegsf.org.

Submittals:

Deadline is the 20th of each month for the following issue. Contact Marina Mascorro by email (mmascorro@cottonshires.com) for submittal. All submittals are subject to editing for space considerations. Employment notices are free if brief.

Address changes:

Please submit to Section Secretary, Jeana Lopez at secretary@aegsf.org

Advertisements:

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- [Message from the Chair](#)
- [Message from the Outgoing Chair](#)
- [AEG announcements, field trips and other news](#)
- [Upcoming short courses and conferences](#)

Thank You to the Corporate Sponsors of AEG San Francisco Section!

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As an era of great leadership within the AEG SF section ends, the new officers are very eager to make the section as active as possible. We would like to greatly thank the outgoing section officers, Bill Godwin (Section Chair), and Mary Colombo (Secretary) as well as all committee chairs and other volunteers that have contributed to make our section great. At the same time, we welcome Tom Barry as Vice Chair and Jeana Lopez as Secretary. We are extremely grateful to Sachiko Tanikawa for agreeing to stay on as Treasurer.

The last few months have been very interesting with regards to the elimination of the Board of Geologists and Geophysicists. There have been a few stumbles in trying to stay the elimination due to the presiding judge declining to grant a temporary restraining order. However, it appears that the judge is perplexed by the speedy dissolution and seemingly unconstitutional elimination of the Board. I'm sure we all have questions, concerns and opinions regarding the progress in this matter, so I will keep everyone posted in the months to come.

The annual meeting was a great success. With ongoing changes at the national AEG level as well as within the meeting organizational committee, such a seamless annual meeting exceeded our expectations. A number of SF Section members attended and presented while many of our sponsors and other members provided excellent presentations and booths in the exhibitors hall. Thank you to all that participated.

Happy holidays,

Jared Pratt

Section Chair

UPCOMING TALKS-

- o **December 8th- Hans AbramsonWard, CEG, (AMEC) Assessment of Potential Fault Rupture Hazard at Briones Dam**

Participation in a professional organization is a valuable and rewarding activity. Being an active member helps you to develop contacts and friendships with people who have the same passion for geology as you do. Coming to meetings and receiving the publications gives you access to new developments in the industry. Please encourage all the geologists you know and work with to join AEG and participate. For more information on joining the AEG, please visit the AEG national headquarters' website at <http://www.aegweb.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3327>

If you or one of your colleagues are interested in volunteering as an officer or one of the committee chairs for the San Francisco Section, please contact our Chair, Jared Pratt, at chair@aegsf.org. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR

This is my last Chair's message for the AEG SF Section Newsletter. After 3 years in this position I am pleased that Jared Pratt is your newly elected Chair. There have been many accomplishments and an equal number of disappointments that have occurred during my tenure. Our participation on State Boards and committees was strengthened by the appointment of Section members JC Isham, Betsy Mathieson and Bob Tepel. Yet there was also the abolishment of the BGG by AB 20X, for which we will be suffering for some time. We had two successful field trips, yet were unable to put a Short Course together. Our meetings have been fun and enlightening, yet the meeting turnouts have been falling. I believe AEG as an organization has been strengthened by the roles it plays at the National level, yet I see many challenges at the local level. As such, this dichotomy in volunteerism at the professional level is OK, and is what keeps us rising to the challenges of being geologists and earth science professionals.

I wish to thank all I have served with, including Pat Drumm, Sachiko Tanikawa, Janine Weber, Corrine Stewart, Marina Mascorro, Jim Newman and others. I also wish to thank our Sponsors and those who "work behind the scenes" to make AEG SF what it is. I will continue to take an active role in AEG and sincerely wish the incoming officers and all who volunteer their time the best of luck.

Thank You.

-Bill Godwin

**Thank you for all your hard work, Bill! Don't be a stranger!*

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FUN WITH GEOSCIENCE TRIVIA

(from GSA Connection, answers on page 4)

1. What term is given to the breaking off and floating away of icebergs from a glacial front that has reached the ocean?
2. What term is sometimes applied to a black diamond?
3. How many faces does a deltohedron crystal have?

MEMBER UPDATES AND OTHER NEWS

Section Meetings

Since our last issue of our newsletter, we have had two great joint meetings. We were pleased to sponsor the October CCGO fundraiser meeting, during which Dr. Peter Ward presented his research on how volcanism may be the key to understanding and controlling global warming. Dr. Ward's theories were heavily supported by data indicating that volcanoes have been the controlling factor in the earth's past global warming events and that manmade emissions have substituted for the role of volcanoes. This left us all wondering about the consequences in the event of future, significant volcanic eruptions.

Our November meeting was held at Spenger's in Berkeley and was a joint meeting and inaugural gathering for the San Francisco Geo-Institute Chapter, formerly the ASCE San Francisco Section, Geotechnical Group. David Crouthamel and Erin Hohenshelt of Jacobs Associates walked us through the rehabilitation of the California Park Hill Tunnel, which connects Larkspur to San Rafael in Marin County. A checkered history of tunnel stability, fires and the Franciscan Complex proved to be a formidable challenge for the designers, construction managers and contractors who ultimately restored the tunnel access and are approaching a completed project. Soon Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) will be joining the pedestrians using the tunnel.

BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS

For those who are trying to stay abreast of the latest actions regarding the elimination of the BGG, here are a couple of informative links to visit:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx4_20_bill_20090728_chaptered.pdf

You will be taken directly to AB 20 4X. The section regarding the BRGG and the Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors can be found on page 19, SEC.40.

Do you blog? If not, you might want to start. The following is a link to a forum discussing possible actions regarding AB 20 4X:

<http://californiapg.ning.com/>

PUBLICATIONS

Section Newsletter is published every 3rd month. If you are interested in contributing to the quarterly newsletter, you may do so by forwarding information in electronic format (.pdf, .jpg, .tif, .doc, .xls) to your newsletter editor, Marina Mascorro (editor@aegsf.org).



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AEG NEWS is published six times a year, with the regular four issues of the NEWS, #1-4, published March, June, September and December, respectively. The *Annual Report and Directory* issue is published in January. The *Annual Meeting Program and Abstracts* issue is published in July. Subscriptions for Association members, which includes all six issues of the AEG NEWS, are included in annual membership dues. Non-member annual subscription is \$40.00, and includes only the four regular issues (#1-4) of the NEWS. Back issues of the AEG NEWS are \$10 each. Please contact our Publications Chair, Jim Newman at publications_chair@aegsf.org

Contributions to the AEG News can include articles, advertisements or news of the home front. For submittals for the National AEG News, please forward any contributions to Jared Pratt, Section chair at chair@aegsf.org

CCGO ANNOUNCEMENTS

To view the CCGO 2009 Annual Report, please visit <http://www.ccco.org/2009annualreport.pdf>

What is CCGO? The California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) was formed in 1997 to advocate the use of sound geologic knowledge and practice by proposing, reviewing, and monitoring statutes, regulations, and public policies. Our [Mission and Goals](#) reflect our beliefs.

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

We welcome your suggestions for content of future newsletters. These include announcements (of a geoscience nature), job postings, legislation or current events (again of a geoscience nature), or an occasional good (but clean) joke or comic. Please send to Marina Mascorro [editor@aegsf.org].

OTHER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION ANNUAL MEETING

December 14-18, 2009, Moscone Center, San Francisco, California

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The NCGS typically meets the last Wednesday of each month in Orinda at the Masonic Center, 9 Altarinda Road. There is a social period at 6:30 pm, and at 7:00 pm a talk (no dinner). To reserve, leave your name and phone number at 925-424-3669 or danday94@pacbell.net. Cost is \$5 per regular member; \$1 per student member.

ANSWERS TO GEOSCIENCE TRIVIA

1. Calving
2. Carbonado
3. Twelve

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SHORT COURSES

WINTER 2010 REVIEW COURSES FOR THE ASBOG® GEOLOGY LICENSING EXAM

The Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) is pleased to announce the Winter, 2010 series of review courses for the ASBOG® geology licensing exam taught by REG REVIEW, Inc. AEG and REG REVIEW, Inc. have partnered to provide these courses since 1992. In the Winter of 2010, twelve one-day review courses will be offered regionally throughout the U.S., these twelve courses will be spread out into the following regions, the Pacific Northwest, the Southeast, the Central East Coast, the Northeast, the North Central, the Central Midwest, the Southwest, the Central West, as well as the regular Northern and Southern California locations (which are now 2 sections 1 day for the ASBOG and one day for the CA Supplemental). Specific locations are listed below:

Western US & Southwest Courses - Winter, 2010

2010PNW-1 - Portland, OR, January 14, 2010, 8am to 4pm

2010NC-1 - Oakland, CA, January 15, 2010, 8am to 4pm (ASBOG Portion)

January 16, 2010, 8am to 10:30am (California Supplemental Portion)

2010SC-1 - Santa Ana, CA, January 16, 2010, 6pm to 8:30pm (California Supplemental Portion), January 17, 2010, 8am to 4pm (ASBOG Portion)

2010SWUS-1 - Phoenix, AZ, January 18, 2010, 8am to 4pm

California Courses are \$535 for AEG members, \$550 for nonmembers.

ASBOG® Courses are \$445 for AEG members, \$460 for nonmembers.

(For more specific location information please visit our website at:

<http://regreview.com/winter2010courselocations.html>)

For Short Course information and submittals, please contact:
George Ford, AIS Construction
Short Course Chair, AEG San Francisco Section

FIELD TRIPS:

For Field Trip information and submittals, please contact:
Phil Johnson (fieldtrip_chair@aegsf.org)
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please note: AEG provides the following employment notices as a courtesy but does not necessarily endorse these services or companies nor does it take responsibility for actions pursuant to these notices.

You can also see other employment opportunities on our website at aegsf.org.

2010 GEOCORPS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The 2010 GeoCorps positions are now open for application through our new online application system. View the list of 65 geoscience positions and apply today. Each applicant may apply for up to three positions. If you have been a GSA GeoCorps Participant in the past, you are eligible to apply for Guest Scientist positions ONLY. The application period will close 1 February, 2010. This year we will be offering two rounds of applications – the second, for fall and winter positions, will begin in May.

GeoCorps Home: <http://www.geosociety.org/geocorps>

List of GeoCorps Positions Available:

https://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/2010/allJobDescriptions.asp

If you would like to list your employment opportunity in this newsletter, please submit a brief description to Marina Mascorro (editor@aegsf.org). For posting on our website, contact Craig Reid (webmaster@aegsf.org)