

# Inland Geological Society

November 2011

Newsletter of the Inland Geological Society

Volume 27 No. 10

**This Meeting:**

**Thursday,  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Time:**

**Social: 6:00pm  
Dinner: 6:30pm  
Lecture: 7:00pm**

**Location:**

**LSA Associates  
1500 Iowa Ave  
Suite 200  
Riverside, CA  
92507**

(Map on Pg. 4)

**Coming to  
Dinner?**

**Please RSVP:  
By Friday 10/31  
(951) 784-2168  
dixie.lass@att.net**

**In this Issue:**

- October Speaker – Mr. Joseph A. Cota ..... 1-2
- Upcoming Events/IGS Meeting Schedule..... 5
- Current IGS Officers ..... 6
- **LSA MEETING LOCATION MAP** ..... 6

**November Speaker:**

**Mr. Joseph A. Cota  
President, Earth Resources, Inc.**

**SWPPP Requirements and the Roles of the Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and the Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP)**

*Abstract*

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) have been an important component of development projects in California for many years. The SWPPP is a plan intended to prevent storm runoff during the construction phases of certain development projects from discharging sediment and non-visible pollutants (such as fuel, paints, solvents, concrete, etc.) to surface waters and existing storm drain systems. In 2009 SWRCB found that the SWPPPs prepared for construction sites up to that time were largely ineffective because of a lack of training on the part of the SWPPP preparer and poor implementation in the field by personnel having inadequate training in the application and maintenance of erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Most construction projects which have ground-disturbing activities of one acre or more require NPDES permit coverage pursuant to SWRCB Order No. 2002-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002, otherwise known as the Construction General Permit or CGP. The CGP was adopted by SWRCB in 2009, partially implemented in July 2010 allowing ongoing projects to be "grandfathered" and fully implemented for all construction projects in September 2011. The CGP covers both "traditional" construction projects and Linear Underground/Overhead Projects (LUPs). The CGP differs from previous stormwater permit requirements in several important ways.

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1) All construction projects seeking permit coverage must evaluate the project Sediment Risk and the Receiving Water Risk and combine the two to determine the overall project Risk Level. The project Risk Level ranges from RL 1 (least amount of environmental risk) to RL 3 (highest risk). Requirements for each project vary depending on its Risk Level. For example Risk Level 2 and 3 projects require preparation of a Rain Event Action Plan (REAP) prior to a weather forecast having 50% chance or greater rainfall and *mandatory* sampling and field testing for pH and Turbidity during Qualifying Rain Events (i.e. a storm producing 0.5 inches or more precipitation). Certain Risk Level 3 projects require Bioassessment monitoring of the receiving waters before, during and after construction.

2) The CGP establishes Numeric Action Levels (NALs) and Numeric Effluent Limitations (NELs) for pH and Turbidity.

3) The CGP establishes a Qualified SWPPP Developer and Qualified SWPPP Practitioner training and certification program. All SWPPP plans must now be prepared by qualified professionals having specific credentials (i.e. professional engineer, professional geologist, landscape architect, or certification by certain accredited private companies who provide nationally-recognized training for sediment and erosion control), must attend specific training in the CGP and SWPPP development by a certified SWPPP Trainer of Record, and must pass a State-administered on-line QSP/QSD examination. Each construction project must also have a designated QSP to monitor the implementation of the SWPPP and to provide the necessary training of the subcontractors.

4) The SWRCB has created the Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS), and online database used by CGP permittees and SWRCB staff in processing applications, determining Risk Levels, reporting sampling and monitoring data, submitting required Annual Compliance Reports, reporting violations and NAL/NEL exceedences, and more.

Because of the heightened awareness of environmental concerns related to development projects and the establishment of specific credentials for professionals preparing SWPPPs, the CGP presents new opportunities for professional geologists and engineering geologists in the construction industry. The geologist having both environmental experience and experience with slope stability and classification of soils with respect to erosion potential often possesses the level of skill necessary to develop the most effective SWPPPs.

### **Biography:**

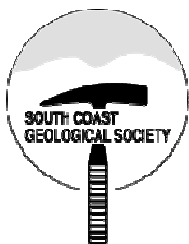
Mr. Cota is the President of Earth Resources Inc. in Santa Clarita, CA. He has been a professional geologist and engineering geologist since 1990. He has many years' experience in providing engineering geology and environmental assessment consulting services for large residential and commercial development projects throughout southern California. Mr. Cota has over 11 years experience in preparing SWPPPs for construction projects and became a State-certified SWPPP Trainer of Record in 2010. Since that time, Mr. Cota has provided QSD and QSP training to the staff members, project managers, and superintendents of large development firms, engineers and geologists who prepare SWPPPs, and to City permitting agency personnel who review SWPPPs.

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

### Rock & Gem Shows—Various locations

Various rock and mineral shows will be throughout So. California. To find one near you, visit [www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp)

### South Coast Geological Society Meeting



Dr. Nate Onderdonk, Assistant Professor at California State University, Long Beach, CA, will be presenting a talk on "New Data and Interpretations Regarding the Prehistoric Earthquake History and Slip-Rate of the Northern San Jacinto Fault Zone" on **Monday, November 7, 2011** at the Doubletree Club Hotel in Santa Ana, CA. For more info., visit [www.southcoastgeo.org](http://www.southcoastgeo.org)

### Los Angeles Basin Geological Society



Arthur R. (Dick) Brown, RG, CEG and Stephen E. Jacobs, PG, CEG, both consultant engineering geologists, will be presenting a talk on the "Geologic Overview of the Palos Verdes Peninsula" and "The Pleistocene of Palos Verdes Peninsula", respectively. The meeting will be on **Thursday, October 27, 2011** at The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center. For more info., please visit [www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org).

### AEG—Inland Empire Section Meeting



Dr. Alan Smith, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of the Department of Geological Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, will be giving a talk on the "Volcanic Hazards of the Lesser Antilles Archipelago". The meeting will be on **Thursday, October 27, 2011** at the University of California, Riverside in Riverside, CA. For more info, visit [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org)

### AEG—Inland Empire Section Meeting



Mr. David L. Perry of AMEC Engineering Consulting will be giving a talk on the "Subsurface Characterization at LADWP Headworks Reservoir Site, City of Los Angeles". The meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 8, 2011** at Cisco's Restaurant in Thousand Oaks, CA. For more info, visit [www.aegsc.org](http://www.aegsc.org)

### SME—SoCal Section November Meeting



The next SME meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 11, 2011**. For more info., visit [www.mine-engineer.com/socalmining](http://www.mine-engineer.com/socalmining)

### South Coast Geological Society Meeting



A poster session will be held at the South Coast Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2011 at the Doubletree Club Hotel in Santa Ana, CA. For more info., visit [www.southcoastgeo.org](http://www.southcoastgeo.org)

## IGS Meeting Schedule

### **November 3, 2011 (Thursday)**

Joe Cota

*Overview of Stormwater Regulations, Sampling, Inspections and Violations*

### **December 7, 2011 (Wednesday)**

Tony Morgan and Tim Moore,  
United Conservation District

*Basin Conceptual Model Development Process as a Precursor to Updating a Regional Groundwater Flow Model*

### **January 12, 2012 (Thursday)**

TBA

**IGS MEETING LOCATION:**

**LSA Associates, Inc.**  
**1500 Iowa Ave, Suite 200**  
**Riverside, CA 92507**

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