

Inland Geological Society

February 2011

Newsletter of the Inland Geological Society

Volume 27 No. 2

This Meeting:

**Wednesday,
February 2nd**

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 Monday 01/31
(951) 784-2168
dixie.lass@att.net**

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February Speaker:

**Kent Norton, AICP, REA
Senior Environmental Planner
LSA Associates, Inc., Riverside, CA**



Update on the California Environmental Quality Act

Abstract

The overarching environmental law in California is the "California Environmental Quality Act" or CEQA which establishes a process for evaluating and disclosing the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, typically either private development or public works improvements. One of the major considerations of CEQA is the geotechnical suitability of sites to support development in terms of faults, seismic shaking, secondary seismic effects such as liquefaction, and soil characteristics. Since its inception, CEQA has been continuously modified by the legislature and the courts, and several cases in recent years have made significant changes to the CEQA process. New mapping is also available from the state which allows the general public more ready access to information on seismic hazards throughout the state.

The state's present focus relative to CEQA is on greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change, however, geotechnical constraints continue to be a major concern throughout the state, but especially in seismically active Southern

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California. Mr. Norton will provide a brief overview of CEQA with a flowchart of the process and typical documents. He will also briefly touch on the similarities and differences between CEQA and the "National Environmental Policy Act" or NEPA which involves work on federal land, issuance of federal permits, or federal monies.

Mr. Norton will highlight the relationship of CEQA to geology and earth science throughout his presentation. He will also answer your project-specific and conceptual questions about CEQA, NEPA, and the environmental review process.

Biography:

Mr. Norton has 33 years of experience in environmental planning. He has prepared and managed the preparation of hundreds of CEQA and NEPA compliance documents including Initial Studies, Environmental Assessments, Categorical Exclusions and Exemptions, Negative Declarations, and Environmental Impact Reports. His projects have ranged from small urban infill subdivisions to the development of over 13,000 acres of land in the high desert near Barstow, and EIRs for approximately a dozen large specific plan projects in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He has prepared EIRs for complex development projects on the former Kaiser Steel Mill, the Ontario Mills Mall property, and the Sierra Lakes Specific Plan project in Fontana. He has managed several award-winning projects including the Los Alamos Hills Master Plan EIR in Murrieta, the Coldwater Reservoir EIR in Beverly Hills, and the MacArthur Park Master Plan EIR in the City of Los Angeles. He also managed preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the closure and reuse of Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York. As a Registered Environmental Assessor, Mr. Norton has prepared dozens of Phase 1 ESAs dealing with hazardous materials on vacant and developed sites.

Mr. Norton is the immediate past state president of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP), and has conducted numerous workshops and training sessions for students and professionals on the basics of CEQA compliance. He is still a Director-at-Large on the AEP State Board and is the chair of the AEP Emerging Issues Committee. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and the American Planning Association (APA).

SPEAKERS WANTED

We are still looking for more speakers for future meetings.

Tell us what you have been working on!

**Please contact Jon Smith, Steve Mains or Greg Johnson
to get your name in the schedule!**

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

SME—SoCal Section Meeting



Dr. Michael Karmis, a Stone Barkie Professor of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering and a Director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research at the Virginia Tech

University, will be giving a talk on "Carbon Capture and Storage Research: The Road to Deployment". The meeting will be on **Tues., February 15, 2011** at the Pomona Valley Mining Co. Restaurant, in Pomona, CA. For more info., visit www.smenet.org/

SME—SoCal Section Meeting



Walter Lombardo, Geologist and Owner of the Nevada Mineral and Book Company, Orange, CA, will be giving a talk on "Diamond Mines in North America". The meeting will be on **Tues., March**

15, 2011 at the Pomona Valley Mining Co. Restaurant, in Pomona, CA. For more info., visit www.smenet.org/

Los Angeles Basin Geological Society



Don Gautier from the USGS will be presenting a talk on "U.S. Geological Survey Assessment of Potential Reserve Growth in L.A. Basin". The meeting will be on **January 27, 2011** at The

Grand at Willow Street Conference Center. For more info, visit www.labgs.org.

AGWA and AGWT Annual Conference

The Groundwater Resources Association of California will be sponsoring the AGWA and AGWT Annual Conference on *Recharge Dilemmas for Water Managers* on **Mon., February 7, 2011** in Ontario, CA. For more info., visit www.grac.org/

Fourth IWA Specialty Conference

The topic of this year's conference will be *Natural Organic Matter: From Source to Tap and Beyond* and will be held **July 27–29, 2011** in Costa Mesa, CA. For more info., visit www.regonline.com/NOM2011

South Coast Geological Society meeting



The next meeting will be held on **Mon., February 1, 2010** at the Doubletree Club Hotel in Santa Ana, CA. The speaker is to be determined. For more info., visit www.southcoastgeo.org

IGS Meeting Schedule

March 3, 2011 (Thursday)

Dr. Larissa Dobrzhinetskaya, UCR
TBA

April 6, 2011 (Wednesday)

Dr. Alan L. Smith, CSU, San Bernardino
TBA

May 5, 2011 (Thursday)

Eric Scott, CSU, Curator of Paleontology, San Bernardino County Museum
TBA

June 1, 2011 (Wednesday)

TBA

IGS MEETING LOCATION:

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

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