ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Inland Empire Chapter

NEWSLETTER –January 2026

Inland Empire Chapter 2026 Officers

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Inland Empire Chapter News

We brought in the new year with our first NORTH meeting of the year on January 14, 2026, which featured a presentation by Mr. Vivien Maisonnueve, who presented on the "From Uncertainty to Implementation: Delivering Restoration in High-Risk Environments." (*See Page 2 of the January Meeting Summary*).

Save the Date: AEG-IE Meeting February 11th

Our next meeting will be a **SOUTH** event hosted at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Corona on February 11, 2026. See the announcement on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Nicolas Barth, Associate Professor of Geology at University of California, Riverside, who will be present:

"Legacy and Recurrence of Bedrock Landslides in the San Gabriel Mountains, California."

We will also enjoy a visit from AEG's Southern Californias Director of Region 2, Mr. Gareth Mills, PG, CEG, covering the association's status, the 2026 Chattanooga annual meeting, committees and working groups, Southern California chapter revitalization, membership and leadership opportunities, sponsorships, publications, field trips, meeting venues and accessibility, and capital improvement projects.

Jobs Board

Earth Systems Southwest has an open position for a Senior Engineering Geologist for the Inland Empire, Perris and Bermuda Dunes offices. Apply here:
https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/3681721

Geocon West, Inc. is seeking a Project Geologist or Engineer with experience managing geotechnical services for public and private projects at its Murrieta office.
Send resume to: battiato@geoconinc.com

Geoadvantec is also accepting resumes for a geologist position here:
https://geoadvantec.com/contact/

January 2026, AEG-IE – SDAG Joint Meeting Summary

The AEG Inland Empire Chapter's January meeting featured Mr. Vivien Maisonneuve, State Water Resources Manager with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), who presented at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Cucamonga.

Mr. Maisonneuve's presentation, "From Uncertainty to Implementation: Delivering Restoration in High-Risk Environments," provided an overview of Salton Sea restoration efforts, with a focus on the planning, design, permitting, and construction challenges associated with the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project. His talk addressed background conditions, risk management, mitigation strategies, and post-construction complexities involved in implementing multi-benefit restoration initiatives.

He began with a discussion of the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), which reduced California's reliance on Colorado River water by conserving agricultural water in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys and transferring it to coastal cities. These actions, however, accelerated the recession of the Salton Sea, requiring mitigation and restoration solutions to address resulting environmental impacts.

Mr. Maisonneuve described the unique physical and ecological characteristics of the Salton Sea, including its location as a terminal lake below sea level in a desert environment, its shallow depth, proximity to the San Andreas Fault, and geothermal activity. Climate change, flood-control efforts, and reduced agricultural inflows prevent the lake from naturally refilling, leading to rising salinity as the shoreline recedes. Surrounding agricultural activity further influences water quality and ecological conditions, necessitating restoration efforts focused on water quality improvement and habitat creation.

The Salton Sea supports significant biological resources, including migratory bird populations and the desert pupfish, a species uniquely adapted to highly saline, shallow, warm, and low-oxygen waters. Mr. Maisonneuve noted that sharp increases in salinity between 2017 and 2018 corresponded with declines in fish-eating bird populations, while shorebird populations remained relatively stable.

He highlighted challenges identified during DWR's 2019 investigations, including difficult site access requiring specialized vehicles, the complex land ownership of the Salton Sea, unstable and highly variable soils, and increasing salinity. The SCH Project's objectives include creating habitat for fish and birds, suppressing emissive dust from exposed lakebed, safely conveying a 100-year flood event, providing limited passive recreation, and improving pupfish connectivity.

To meet these objectives, DWR evaluated multiple delivery methods and ultimately selected a design-build approach, allowing innovative solutions and effective risk sharing between DWR and the design-builder. The $451-million project, currently underway, consists of multiple construction divisions and habitat areas, including expansion zones and several interconnected ponds.

Mr. Maisonneuve shared project solutions to logistical challenges, such as the impracticality of importing millions of cubic yards of soil and using what was available including the use of native clay for berm construction, aggregates for erosion control, and surface treatments using existing materials like barnacles. Monitoring efforts include bird population surveys and water-quality tracking using tools such as the CEDEN database. Notable successes include the return of pelicans to newly created habitat areas.

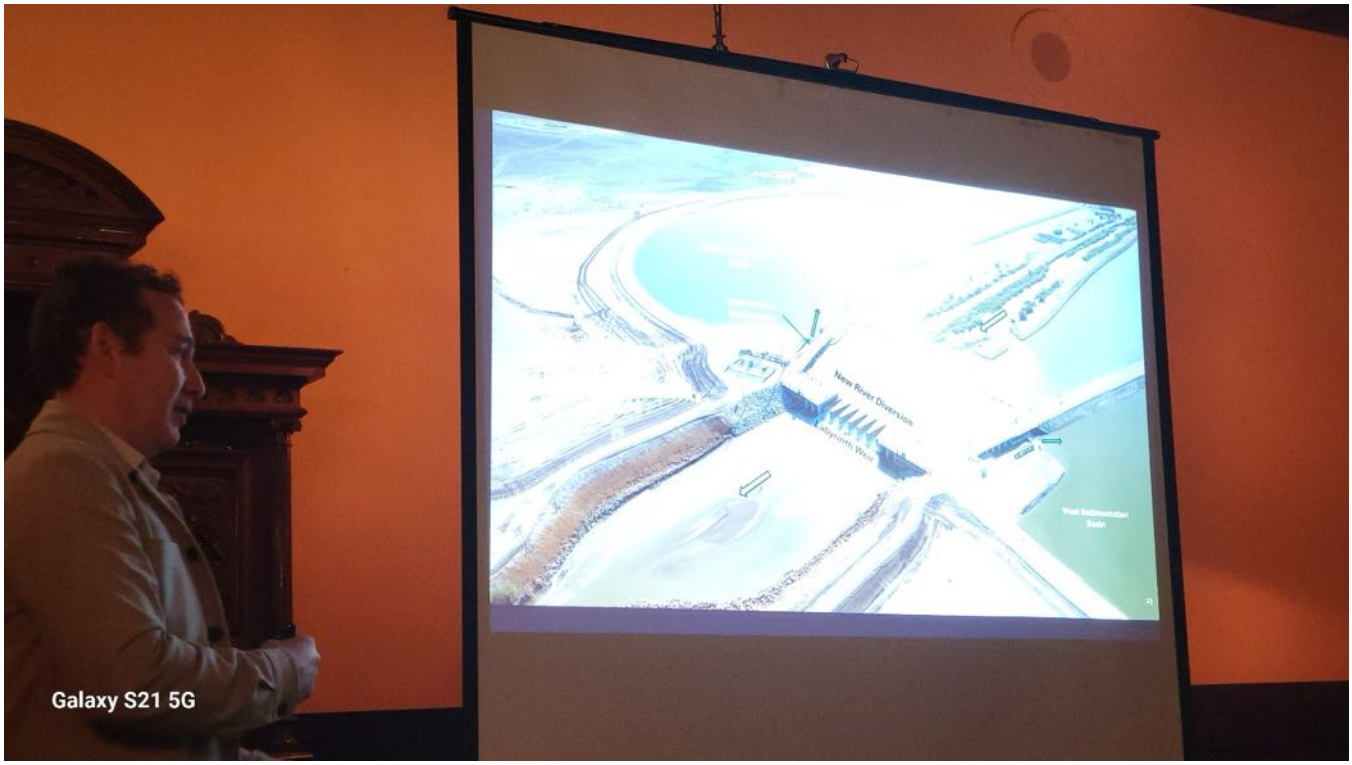
He concluded by highlighting key lessons learned, including the importance of clear objectives and design criteria, strong partnerships with regulators, the design-build team, and the community, effective decision-making, appropriate risk allocation, and adaptive management in complex restoration environments, emphasizing that one can always do better.

Mr. Vivien Maisonnueve presenting at the NORTH AEG-IE January meeting held at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Cucamonga.


Galaxy S21 5G


Galaxy S21 5G


Galaxy S21 5G


New River Diversion
Galaxy S21 5G

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

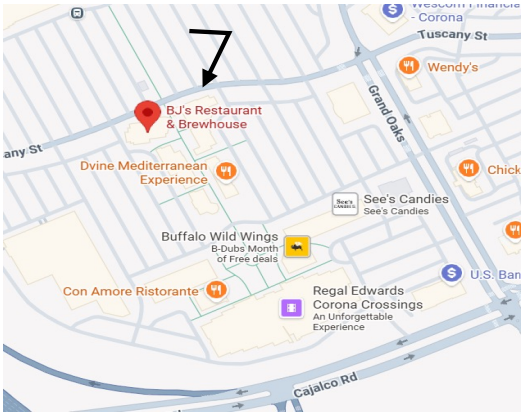
FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings AEG Inland Empire Chapter Members

We hope you will join us for our 2nd 2026 AEG Inland Empire meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, February 11th, at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse in Corona. This a new "SOUTH" venue of our roving AEG-IE meeting locations. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Meeting date: **Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

Location: **BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse**
2520 Tuscany Street
Corona, CA 92881



Time: 6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Presentation

Cost: $45 per person with advance online registration for AEG members,
$50 without registration (RSVP or at the door) and non-members,
$10 for students with a valid student ID and current AEG Student membership.

Food: Entree and Pizza Buffet

RSVP: **Register and pay online at our website: https://aeg-ie.org/meeting**

Please register prior to Noon 12 p.m., Monday February 9th

Topic and speaker:

"Legacy and Recurrence of Bedrock Landslides in the San Gabriel Mountains, California"

Dr. Nicolas Barth
Associate Professor of Geology
University of California, Riverside

See more presentation details on following page

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INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

" Legacy and Recurrence of Bedrock Landslides in the San Gabriel Mountains, California"

Dr. Nicolas Barth
Associate Professor of Geology, University of California, Riverside

ABSTRACT

More than 90% of the 2400 km2 catchment area of the actively uplifting San Gabriel Mountains (SGM) drains southward towards Los Angeles, the second largest metropolitan area in the United States, through an extensive reservoir and flood control system. In terms of downstream effects, the SGM is arguably one of the most important mountain ranges in the United States. The prevailing view is that short-return fire-flood-debris flow cycles dominate denudation of the SGM, however, emerging research suggests the role of bedrock landslides is likely significantly underappreciated. This talk will highlight (1) geochronology results that demonstrate that some of the largest landslides in the SGM formerly thought to be Early Quaternary in age (1-2.5 Ma) occurred during the Late Holocene, (2) a bedrock landslide inventory of the SGM with over 11,000 landslide deposits that significantly increases their known abundance, and (3) case studies of major landscape effects including 150m vertical aggradation pulses and drainage reorganizations driven by landslides. This new perspective has important implications for the Los Angeles region, particularly if many of these landslides are coseismically triggered. To our knowledge the SGM landslide inventory (LSI) is the only systematic, range-scale, lidar-resolution inventory of its kind in the world to date; the talk will also cover some of the novel techniques employed to produce this LSI, example spatial analyses it enables, and ongoing efforts to have the database incorporated into the California Geological Survey's statewide LSI.

SPEAKER BIO

Nicolas Barth is an Associate Professor of Geology at the University of California, Riverside. He received a BSc & MSc in Geology at UC Santa Barbara and a PhD at the University of Otago in New Zealand. Among diverse research interests, his main aim is to improve our understanding of active faults, bedrock landslides, and the evolution of landscapes.