



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Inland Empire Chapter NEWSLETTER – March 2026

Inland Empire Chapter 2026 Officers

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Co-Vice Chair (North) – Juan Rodelo, Geotek
Co-Vice Chair (South) – Open
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Inland Empire Chapter News

Our third meeting of the year was a NORTH meeting on March 11, 2026, which featured a presentation by Dr. Christopher (Chris) Stohr, the 2025-2026 Richard H Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, who presented "*Retrospective of the Earthline Hazardous-Waste Landfill Failure, a Case Study of Legacy Landfills and Dumps and Improving Field Inspections to Reduce Groundwater Contamination With Remarks about Geoscience in Politics.*" (See Page 2 of the March Meeting Summary).

Renew your membership today! Support our chapter, gain access to publications, and stay engaged by renewing your membership today here: <https://www.aegweb.org/membership>

Save the Date: AEG-IE Meeting April 8th

Our next meeting will be a **SOUTH** event hosted at Phil's B.B.Q in Temecula on Wednesday **April 8, 2026.**

We are excited to welcome Mr. Thomas Walker, President and founding member of Evans & Walker, who will be present: "***Reminders of an Oil Boom.***"

This talk describes how California, particularly the Los Angeles Basin, was once the center of U.S. oil production, and although production has declined, legacy oil wells remain hidden beneath many developable sites. This presentation provides a brief history of oil development in the basin, guidance on locating abandoned wells, and a high-level overview of the process required to properly abandon or re-abandon them to support safe residential and commercial development.

Field Trip Opportunity: April 24th

Our January 2026 speaker, Mr. Vivien Maisonnueve, State Water Resources Manager with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), has graciously offered a special opportunity for a **field tour** related to the subject of his January presentation, 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.

Due to limited site access and safety considerations at the **Salton Sea SCH Project site**, participation will be limited to **15 attendees** and will be available on a **first-come, first-served basis** for a **Friday, April 24th, morning tour**. We will be limited to a few vehicles so carpooling will be required. If you are interested in attending and/or driving a carpool, please email us at aeinland@gmail.com . Sign-ups will also be available at our next meeting on **April 8th**.

March 2026, AEG-IE Meeting Summary

The AEG Inland Empire Chapter's March meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Christopher (Chris) Stohr, a 2025-2026 Richard H Jahns Distinguished Lecturer and the 38th Jahns Lecturer. The meeting was held at Old Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Cucamonga and was attended by 19 people, bringing together students and professionals.

The featured lecture reviewed the history of the Earthline landfill, originally developed over abandoned underground coal mines, and detailed the regulatory, legal, and technical failures that led to its closure and eventual waste exhumation. Topics included inadequate site characterization, mine subsidence, dispersive (sodic) soils and pinhole tests, drilling and sampling practices, and the role of fractures and sand channels in contaminant migration. Engineering geology investigations conducted during waste removal demonstrated the importance of proper subsurface characterization, monitoring, and construction practices.

The presentation concluded with a broader discussion on the condition of legacy sanitary landfills, noting that thousands remain unlined, thinly covered, and often located over shallow aquifers. Emphasis was placed on the importance of operations and maintenance, as well as the use of lidar, stereo photointerpretation, and other image-processing techniques to help address the limitations of traditional walkover inspections, along with sustainable, low-cost approaches to landfill stewardship. A "stone soup" conservation model was proposed, encouraging collaboration among municipalities, landowners, conservation groups, and agencies to prioritize maintenance, protect groundwater resources, and support long-term environmental sustainability. "Stone soup" symbolizes the power of collaboration, showing how small contributions from many people can create something greater than the sum of its parts.

March 2026

Dr. Chris Stohr presents at the NORTH AEG-IE March meeting held at Old Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Cucamonga.





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INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER

APRIL 2026 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

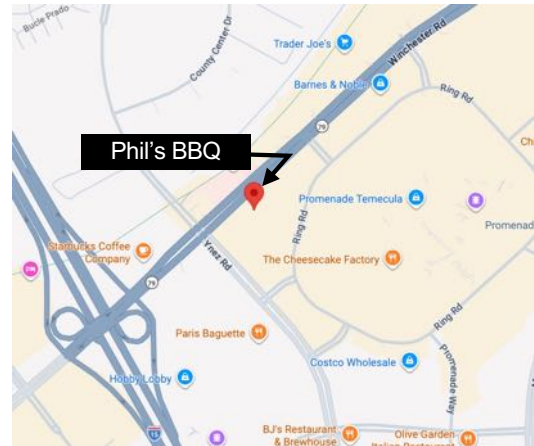
Greetings AEG Inland Empire Chapter Members

We hope you will join us for our 4th 2026 AEG Inland Empire meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8th, at Phil's B.B.Q in Temecula. This a new "SOUTH" venue of our roving AEG-IE meeting locations. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

**Location: Phil's B.B.Q – Patio Area
40830 Winchester Road
Temecula, CA 92591**

Time: 5:30 pm Social Hour
6:30 pm Dinner
7:30 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: Barbecue Buffet Style

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

Please register prior to Noon 12 p.m., Monday April 6th

Topic and speaker:

"Reminders of an Oil Boom"

Mr. Thomas Walker

**Evans & Walker, Consulting Petroleum Engineers
Huntington Beach, California**

See more presentation details on following page



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“Reminders of an Oil Boom”

Mr. Thomas Walker

Evans & Walker, Consulting Petroleum Engineers

Huntington Beach, California

ABSTRACT

California and the Los Angeles Basin were once the epicenter of the United States oil industry, contributing over one-third of all American oil production in 1923. Although local production has dropped dramatically, reminders of this oil boom are present around and underneath us. Developers have found wealth, along with a few land mines (idle and abandoned wells), in the vacant lots that were the site of significant oil production. These developers and the associated land use authorities need the expertise of knowledgeable engineers and geologists as they look to avoid or abandon / reabandon these oil wells and provide the residential and commercial development needed in our state. The goal of this talk is to give a brief insight into the history of oil development in the Los Angeles Basin; provide guidance on how to locate the wells that stand between vacant lots and development; and give a high-level look at the effort required to initiate the abandonment or reabandonment of these wells.

SPEAKER BIO

Mr. Thomas Walker developed an early interest in the energy industry growing up in Tyler, Texas, as the son of a petroleum geologist, and began working in oil and gas as a student in 1980. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering (cum laude) from Texas A&M University in 1985, he joined Mobil Oil Corporation as a field petroleum engineer. Early in his career, he contributed to the development of an economic model for the Luling Branyon oil field during a major oil price downturn, an experience that set the foundation for his expertise in oil and gas property valuation. In 1991, he relocated to the Los Angeles Basin with Mobil, where he gained regulatory experience as an Environmental, Health and Safety Engineer. He transitioned to consulting in 1999, founding Walker Engineering, Inc., which later became Evans & Walker following a partnership formed in 2001. Based in the Los Angeles Basin for more than 35 years, he has built extensive experience in urban oil and gas operations. Outside of work, he lives in Huntington Beach with his family and has been deeply involved in community service, youth sports, scouting, and his church.