Message from the President

It will be another interesting and busy year for the Board as we continue to deal with California’s turbulent economic situation while working to maintaining a high level of service for both consumers and licensees. Despite the challenges, several new developments are in place or planned for the current year that will improve the Board’s operations and its ability to serve the public. The transition to computer-based-testing (CBT) for all of the State administered exams is an exciting development and will provide additional flexibility for our exam candidates along with increased efficiencies and security for the overall exam process. Adjustment of the Board’s fee structure will align more closely with the actual cost of operations now that the national examinations are being administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveyors (NCEES). Existing licensees and some exam candidates will actually see reduced fees.

The Board will be hosting the NCEES Western Zone Meeting to be held in San Francisco in March 2013. This will be an opportunity to showcase California and our Board to this national organization. It will also be an excellent opportunity for Board members, Board staff, and interested members of the public to attend and participate in this important meeting.

The Board is very pleased to welcome two new members to round out our ranks and to provide additional support and insight regarding the many issues the Board will be addressing over the coming months. Welcome and congratulations to Ms. Kathy Jones Irish, Public Member and Mr. Robert Stockton, Civil Engineering Member. Finally, it is my honor to serve as Board President for the current fiscal year. I look forward to another productive year and many more accomplishments for the Board. Thank you to Ric Moore and all of the Board staff for all of their hard work and support over the past year, which included some significantly challenging times and events. And thank you to Jerry Silva for his service as Board President over the past year.
New Board Members

Kathy Jones Irish, of Los Angeles, was appointed as a public member to the Board on July 6, 2012 by Governor Brown. She has been vice president at Arnie Berghoff and Associates since 2011 and was vice president of marketing and business development at KHAFA Engineering Consultants Inc. from 2010 to 2011. She served as assistant general manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from 2008 to 2010 and as interim general manager at the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs in 2008. Jones Irish was director of government relations at MWH Americas Inc. from 2006 to 2008 and chief of staff to Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge from 2001 to 2005. She was the executive assistant to the general manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from 1998 to 2001 and was manager of public affairs at the Water Replenishment District of Southern California from 1996 to 1998. Jones Irish was public affairs manager at Warner Bros. Studios from 1994 to 1996, manager of community relations at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission from 1991 to 1994 and a transportation planner at the Southern California Association of Governments from 1988 to 1991.

Robert Stockton, of Riverside, was appointed as the Civil Engineer member of the Board on July 6, 2012 by Governor Brown. He has worked in multiple positions at Rick Engineering Company since 1981, including principal, associate principal, and associate and project engineer. He was a design engineer at Sowards and Brown Engineering Company from 1978 to 1981.

Technical Advisory Committee Vacancies

The Board is accepting applications to fill vacancies on its civil engineering, structural engineering, and land surveying Technical Advisory Committees (TACs).

The TACs advise and assist the Board and its staff on civil engineering, and structural engineering, and land surveying matters. Each TAC usually meets once a year; however, individual TAC members may also be asked to assist Board staff in reviewing applications for licensure, enforcement complaint investigation cases, and other technical issues.

Each TAC consists of five members who are appointed by the Board. In addition, two Board members (one professional member in the appropriate discipline and one public member) and a staff person are assigned as liaisons to each TAC. The TAC members serve a two-year term and can be reappointed for two additional two-year terms. TAC members receive per diem and expenses but are not paid.

Applicants for appointment to the TACs must be expert civil or structural engineers or land surveyors and must hold current, valid, and unrestricted licenses. Additionally, applicants must not have been subject to enforcement action by the Board and must not be under investigation by the Enforcement Unit of the Board.

The Technical Advisory Committee Member Application Form is available on the Board’s web site, www.bpelsg.ca.gov. The TAC application may also be obtained by calling the Board office at 1-866-780-5370 (toll free). Once received, the applications will be reviewed by the Board member and staff liaisons to the TACs.
Civil Engineering Licensing
By Susan Christ, PE

This year has seen major changes in civil engineering licensing. For many years, applicants for licensing as a civil engineer in California have completed their application, obtained their transcripts, collected four signed and sealed reference forms, and sent the package to the Board with a check for $275. The combined application and examination fee covered staff processing of the actual application and the development and administration of the three required licensing exams: NCEES Civil Engineering Principles and Practice, the California Seismic Principles Exam, and the California Engineering Survey Exam. Applicants sent in an application and fee and were scheduled by the Board for all three examinations. All three exams were administered on a Thursday and Friday each October and April, and all were a traditional format of pencil and paper. Applicants simply had to complete an application and sit back and wait while the Board notified them of where to go and when they were taking the exams.

This spring the Board adopted new regulations that changed the fee structure for licensing and also converted the California Seismic Principles Exam and the California Engineering Survey Exam to a computer-based format, commonly referred to as CBT. The new fees include an application fee of $125 payable to the Board, a fee payable to NCEES for the NCEES Civil Engineering Principles and Practice Examination, a $150 fee for each California State Civil Examination (Seismic Principles and Engineering Surveying); and a CBT fee payable to Prometric Inc. for administration of the California State Civil Examinations.

Applicants now send in their application to the Board with the application fee of $125, and $150 for each California State Civil Examination that they would like to take at this time. Once their application is approved by the Board, they will then need to register and pay for the NCEES Civil Engineering Principles and Practice Examination at www.NCEES.org. In addition, the Board will notify them when they need to pay and register with Prometric Inc. for administration of their California State Civil Examination.

The transition to the new fees and examination registration process has proceeded very smoothly, and our applicants have caught on very quickly to the new procedures. Board staff has been instrumental in assisting applicants with their questions and concerns via email and phone contacts.

If you, as a registrant, employer, or applicant, have any questions regarding the new fees and exam registration process, please feel free to make use of the Contact Us tab on the Board website and call or email the appropriate staff. We are here to assist you in any way we can.
**EIT/LSIT Happenings**
By Linda Brown

The EIT/LSIT application procedure has changed! Administration of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam and the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) is now being conducted by NCEES. Candidates will register to take the exams on [www.NCEES.org](http://www.NCEES.org). During the online exam registration process, candidates will be asked to verify that they meet all requirements to qualify for the FE or FS examination. They will also pay an exam registration fee by credit card directly to NCEES.

To qualify for the FE exam, a candidate must have 3 years of engineering education or 3 years of engineering work experience, or a combination of engineering education and work experience that totals 3 years.

To qualify for the FS exam, a candidate must have 2 years of land surveying education or two years of land surveying work experience, or a combination of land surveying education and work experience that totals 2 years.

Important! After passing the FE/FS exam, candidates have one more step to complete for EIT/LSIT certification. They must submit a certification application to the Board, along with a $50 application fee. Qualified candidates will then be issued EIT/LSIT certificates.

More exciting changes will be coming soon. The FE/FS exams will be computer-based exams beginning in 2014. Watch for it!

**Monument Preservation**
By Larry Kereszt

The preservation of boundary monuments is essential in maintaining consistent and accurate survey maps and the public record of surveys.

If any public works project completed by a City or County agency has resulted in the destruction or concealment of any monuments, Business and Professions Code Section 8771(b) requires that the accurate location of all existing monuments be perpetuated and replaced with appropriate documents filed with the County Surveyor’s Office referencing the new monuments. There is no provision in the law that exempts local agencies from this requirement.

It is important to understand that any monuments that have a potential for being disturbed and/or destroyed will require field referencing and filing of a Corner Record or Record of Survey with the County. Subsequently, any monuments actually disturbed or destroyed will require a new monument to be reset in accordance with the aforementioned Section 8771(b), which also requires filing a second Corner Record or Record of Survey.

If you believe that a local agency may have destroyed or concealed a monument without replacing or perpetuating the monument, please contact Larry Kereszt:

Larry.Kereszt@dca.ca.gov
(916) 263-2240
2535 Capital Oaks Drive Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95833

Please also provide us with information supporting your concern. This could include photographs of the disturbed monument, Records of Survey, emails, etc. along with your description of the affected area and any other information you feel we should know about the matter.
Geologists ROCK!
By Linda Brown

California Geologists Excel!
March 2012 geology exams were a huge success. California candidates scored higher than the national average on both the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and the Practice of Geology (PG) exams. The 101 candidates who took the FG exam had a 68% pass rate, 11 percentage points higher than the national average of 57%. The pass rate for the PG exam was 81%, 8 percentage points higher than the national average of 73%. Way to go, California!

No More Pencil and Paper
This fall’s administration of the state geology exams—the California Specific Exam, the Certified Hydrogeologist Exam, the Certified Engineering Geologist Exam, and the Geophysicist Exam—will, for the first time, be taken by candidates on a computer. On October 9 and 10, candidates took the exams at their choice of 27 locations throughout California, Oregon, and Nevada.

We Need You!
Throughout the year, the Geology Program uses numerous licensees to help with exam development, validation, standard setting, and to review complaints and enforcement cases. We need both long-time experienced licensees and new licensees to help with these endeavors. Our experts work under contract and are paid an hourly wage in addition to reimbursement for travel expenses. If you are interested in helping your profession, please consider giving the Board a few days of your time. Call Patty at (916) 263-1847 to volunteer.

Speaking of Volunteers …
The Geology Program is in the process of gathering 1000 licensee email addresses to help with an upcoming occupational analysis for the California Specific Examination which will focus on your daily tasks as a licensed Professional Geologist as it relates to the practice in California. The data we receive will help compile a report to assist with development of the California Specific Examination. It is vital that we have enough geologists respond in order to accurately represent the practice of geologists.

What is an occupational analysis? It is a method for identifying the tasks performed in a profession and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform that job. An occupational analysis is the first step to establish an examination that is fair, job-related, and legally defensible and is mandated by Business and Professions Code Section 139. The California Specific Examination occupational analysis will be conducted as an online survey and will assist the Board in ensuring that the exam content is relevant.

To participate in the survey please contact the Board either by e-mailing geology@dca.ca.gov or by calling toll free at (866) 780-5370 to submit your e-mail address, name, and license number for receipt of the link to the survey. If e-mailing, please include “OA” in the subject line. Your participation is greatly appreciated!
Contact the Board
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA  95833-2944

Toll Free:  (866) 780-5370
Phone:    (916) 263-2222
Fax:       (916) 263-2246
Email:     BPELS.Office@dca.ca.gov
Website:   http://www.bpeLSg.ca.gov

2013
BOARD MEETINGS

January 31-February 1
March 7-8
April 17
May 30-31
July 11-12
August 28-29
October 3-4
November 14-15

This schedule is tentative and may change. Please check the Board’s website for updates

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Celina Calderone, Editor