



AEG SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER

November 2014

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Hello to all of the new and returning members of the San Joaquin Valley AEG Chapter of the Sacramento Section!

The summer's heat has passed and the Canada Geese are honking that autumn is well under way. We got off to a great start to this year's meeting schedule with an outstanding talk in September by Dr Greg Stock, Park Geologist at Yosemite. October was bumpy, with a missed meeting that month, but nevertheless we are back in November with a bang! On November 20th, we will have guest Dr. Ed Keller joining us at the Elbow Room to discuss how to be an expert witness in geomorphology! He is a dynamic speaker and his top-notch work in fluvial and tectonic geomorphology has given us a better understanding of surface processes from a broad perspective. Following that, we are planning a diverse set of talks for winter and spring, so stay tuned for details.

As you see on the left, we have three newly involved people serving as chair, vice/co-chair and treasurer. If you can, reach out to these people with suggestions to make our group more responsive to your needs and interests. For example, if you can be a speaker or know of anyone who might be interested in speaking at one of our meeting, PLEASE, pass along the info.

We are also open to suggestions regarding events, field trips, possible sponsors, and other ways to get together and interact. We would love to see more interaction within our group and help expanding. Bring your coworkers and students to meetings and hopefully to field trips we have in the future!

Hope to see everyone at our November meeting, and best of luck with your holiday preparations!

Sincerely,
Kiersti Ford
Chair

Being an Expert Witness of Geomorphology

Dr. E.A. Keller

November 20, 2014

Abstract: Gathering your own data and coming to your own conclusion through scientific research and discovery is the most important principle to remember when being an expert witness in geomorphology. You can only be questioned in deposition and trial in your area of expertise. You are qualified as an expert by education, knowledge, and experience. You will have absolutely nothing to fear from cross-examination if you are prepared and confident about your work. Being an expert witness requires good communication skills. When you make a presentation, speak clearly and avoid jargon, especially when addressing a jury. Keep in mind that when you take on a case that may eventually go to court as a lawsuit, the entire process, with appeals and so forth, can take several years. Therefore, being an expert may become a long-term commitment of your time and energy. You may be hired by either side in a dispute, but your job is the same—determine the scientific basis of the case and explain your scientific reasoning to the lawyers, the judge, and the jury. Your work, including pre-trial investigations, often determines what the case will be based on. The use of science in the discovery part of an investigation is demonstrated from a California case involving the Ventura River, where building of a flood control levee restricted flow to a narrower channel, increasing unit stream power as well as potential for bank erosion and landslides.



Bio: Edward Keller was born on June 6, 1942 in Los Angeles, California. He attended California State University at Fresno where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1965. However, he decided that he was really better suited to geology and returned to California State University to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology in 1968. He then earned a Master of Science degree in Geology from the University of California at Davis in 1969. He earned a Ph.D. from Purdue University, Indiana in Geology in 1973. He joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina the same year. In 1976, he accepted a position at the University of California at Santa Barbara (joint appointment with the Environmental Studies Program and the Department of Earth Science) and has remained there ever since. He has served as Chair of both the

Environmental Studies and the Hydrologic Science programs several times. Edward Keller has had a very productive career. He is an author on some 100 articles in international journals, governmental reports and professional volumes. Many of these are seminal works on fluvial processes and tectonic geomorphology. Even more impressive are the books that he has written. He is the author of the most successful textbook on Environmental Geology (with the same name) now in its eighth edition. He also wrote the definitive textbook on tectonic geomorphology entitled Active Tectonics and is in its second printing. He is the author with Daniel Botkin of a very successful textbook on Environmental Science (with the same name). He is also an author on two other books on Environmental Science and Geology. Keller has received several honors and awards for his contributions to the profession. He received a Hartley Visiting Professor Award from The University of Southampton, England in 1982-1983 and the Quatercentenary Fellowship from Cambridge University, England in 2000. He two Outstanding Alumnus Awards from Purdue University, Indiana, one from the department (1994) and one from the School of Science (1996). He also received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from California State University at Fresno in 1998. He received the Outstanding Research Award from the Southern California Earthquake Center in 1999. Professor Keller received the Don J Easterbrook, Distinguished Scientist Award from the Geological Society of America in 2004.

