



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: September 11, 2008

Agenda Item No. 10: Information Report from the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG).

INTRODUCTION: The Board for Geologists and Geophysicist (BGG) as of April 25, 2008, enacted a regulatory change to Section 3065 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. The Executive Officer of the BGG, Mr. Richard R. Rempel, will provide a summary of the intent and nature of the regulatory change.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) was established to protect and serve California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. DCA helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. The DCA also protects professionals from unfair competition by unlicensed practitioners. The DCA issues licenses in more than 100 business and 200 professional categories, including doctors, dentists, contractors, cosmetologists and automotive repair facilities. The Department of Consumer Affairs includes 40 regulatory entities (nine bureaus, one program, twenty-five boards, three committees, one commission, and one office). These entities establish minimum qualifications and levels of competency for licensure. They also license, register, or certify practitioners, investigate complaints and discipline violators. The committees, commission and boards are semiautonomous bodies whose members are appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. DCA provides them administrative support. DCA's operations are funded exclusively by license fees.

Created by statute in 1968, the independent BGG operates under the Department of Consumer Affairs and protects the public by:

- Examining and licensing only fully qualified professionals;
- Promulgating and enforcing high professional standards commensurate with the considerable technical challenges associated with preventing or mitigating potential risks to human health, safety and the environment, and maintaining and improving California's critical infrastructure (e.g., schools, hospitals and transportation), housing, water supply, flood control, community well-being and economic development, waste disposal, enjoyment of open space and private property, and emergency preparedness; and



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- Taking effective and appropriate disciplinary action against unlicensed activity in these areas where geology and geophysics play such crucial roles

With an Executive Officer and full-time staff of six civil servants, along with part-time student interns, the BGG operates day-to-day and year-to-year funded solely by licensees through ongoing application, examination, licensure and renewal fees. As of July 1, 2007, the current pool of qualified, fee-paying, licensed professionals consists of 223 Professional Geophysicists and 4,954 Professional Geologists – including specialty certifications of 1,589 in engineering geology and 838 in hydrogeology.

On average over the past several years, the BGG has examined approximately 200-250 applicants for professional licensure and about 100-150 licensed professionals seeking certification in the engineering geology and hydrogeology specialties each year. Initiated within the past two years, the Geologist-in-Training certificate program has received growing interest from college geoscientist graduates who have satisfied the educational prerequisites but still need to gain additional qualifying professional-level experience to qualify for professional licensure.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: The information being provided by the BGG is informational in nature, and no recommendations are offered at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer

