THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING – BULLETIN 74 REVISIONS

It’s been over 20 years since the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued its Draft Bulletin 74-90 as a supplement to Bulletin 74-81, California Well Construction Standards. CGA has long urged the revision of those standards and was instrumental in the development of the 1999 Draft Geothermal Heat Exchange Well (GHEW) standards.

Finally in 2010 CGA members, in conjunction with the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (CCDEH)’s Water Well Technical Advisory Committee (WWTAC) began work on writing revisions to Bulletin 74-81, 74-90 and the 1999 GHEW standards.

The WWTAC Bulletin 74 Subcommittee (chaired by CGA member Jeremy Wire) has just finished a 3-year effort with the issuance of a 114 page working draft revision of all these standards. The subcommittee is now doing a final review of the document before submitting the revisions to the entire WWTAC for review. After more reviews by CCDEH and CGA the revisions will be sent to DWR for consideration.

The document covers water wells, monitoring wells, cathodic protection wells as well as GHEW standards, which have already been sent to DWR for consideration. (see article below).

DRAFT TO ISSUE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT OF GHEW STANDARDS

DWR, after months of gathering info and expert input on GHEWs, plans to issue a public review draft of GHEW standards in winter 2013-2014. Prior to issuance, a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) of experts from industry and state and local agencies will be asked to ensure the draft is ready for review. There will be two public meetings during the comment period.

GET MOBILE ACCESS TO CGA!

Want quick access to CGA’s website? Just use the QR code to put www.groundh2o.org on your phone. You’ll have access to the latest industry info and your personal member’s page in the field!

NEED CA$H?

CGA will hold another Grand Cash Prize Drawing at the 2013 CGA Convention and Trade Show at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, NV on October 24-26th. The Drawing will be held on October 25.

Contractors on the trade show floor at time of the drawing are eligible to win. The pot’s $2500 or more. It could pay you BIG to attend the CGA convention!!.

SAVE MONEY!! with pre-reg convention prices until October 18th. Online at www.groundh2o.org.

WELL LOG ISSUE DIES THIS YEAR

The removal of well log confidentiality which was included as a recommendation from the State Water Resources Control Board in a budget trailer bill appears dead this year. CGA’s Legislative Advocate Pete Conaty has told us the recommendation has not been acted on by the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2.

MORTENSSON TO LEAVE CGA

Mike Mortensson, CGA Executive Director since 1990 will leave CGA at the end of 2013. CGA President Gary Mickelson wrote to him “Thank you for your years of dedication to our association.” No replacement has been named.
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We understand Californians work hard for their money. That's why we offer qualifying association members a 6 percent discount on premiums. Your individual business may be eligible for even more discounts. That's extra money when you need it most. And a policy with State Fund buys more than just workers' compensation insurance; it buys the strength and stability of State Fund. After all, we've never pulled out of the market due to an economic downturn and we never will. For more information, call your broker, or State Fund group programs at (800) 533-6868.

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DATES TO REMEMBER 2013

WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP
Sept. 12  The Mission Inn
Riverside, CA

2013 CGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
Sep. 12-14  The Mission Inn
Riverside, CA

CGA 65th ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
Oct. 24-26  Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
Reno, NV

ADVERTISING RATES

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“Groundwater Reflections” is produced by Mike Mortensson, and Marilyn Stornetta with California Groundwater Association.

Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers or the members of the California Groundwater Association.

Contact CGA at 707-578-4408; fax: 707-546-4906
email: wellguy@groundh2o.org; CGA website:
www.groundh2o.org
You asked for more education opportunities – and we are giving you the chance to make any final adjustments to our 65th convention schedule. This will be our last opportunity for members from our Southern California branch in our meetings. This will be our last chance to offer. So please feel free to come and network with your fellow members at the board meeting.

By the time you receive this newsletter, our September board meeting will only be a few days away (9/13-9/14). The hotel is The Mission Inn in Riverside. We hope to see members from our regional training seminar on Water Well Construction. It’s on Thursday, September 12th at The Mission Inn before Friday committee meetings. (Details on the CGA website) There are just a few slots left. We are continuing with one of our CGA goals to expand the Educational Opportunities for our members.

I invite you to come and join us in Reno at the Peppermill for the convention. We are very pleased to be able to offer a new location for our members. New location and a new layout! Our Convention Committee made several improvements to the convention structure in 2012. We look forward to continuing with that same format, with a few new ideas and a new location – a good time will be had by all.

Riverside is the location for our 2014 convention and the Mission Inn is going to be one of three of the host hotels. This will be a good time to take a preview of the Hotel and what it has to offer. Given this, I hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming convention in October (10/24-10/26) at the Peppermill in Reno.

Holy Smokes, this year is flying by! I have talked to several of our CGA members and they are telling me how busy they are this year. What a great thing for all of us and our industry.

Given this, I hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming convention in October (10/24-10/26) at the Peppermill in Reno. Please read more about it on the CGA Website: www.groundh20.org and in the attendee packet now in the mail.

I would like to personally thank each and every committee member for their hard work and dedication to aid in our success as an Association.

Happy Trails
Gary
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INSURANCE KEEPS CHANGING!

The economy is changing and so is the insurance world. Your Insurance and Safety Committee is looking at a new program for workers’ compensation in 2014 to replace the former State Fund groups 59 and 859 which will end on January first of 2014.

With that in mind, we are reviewing loss information for the past five years to develop a “loss pick” for the group based on developed losses. The key will be coming up with a competitive base rate for all contractor members which we will then expand to all members to make the best program for the entire CGA.

We will keep you posted on the progress and provide an update at the September Board meeting in Riverside.

With insurance change comes in multiples. The current Hartford program through NGWA will be changing as Hartford has not been competitive with the market on auto, general liability, and property (equipment).

It will be important to make sure your description of operations is correct, you have reviewed your losses and explained any large ones, and complete the new supplemental applications from other carriers.

All of this extra work will not go unrewarded. The more information you can provide, makes the presentation of your business to the insurance companies the most attractive. This will give you the most options on coverage and the best rates available.

We are working with two additional carriers on the property and casualty (business insurance) side of the house. We will also have an update at the Board meeting in Riverside.

Last, but never least, the employee benefits insurance world is a moving target with the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare as it is affectionately known. Brian Cecy, Kelly Doherty and the Q&A programs available are just a start. However, there will be a seminar at the convention on Saturday at 1:00 with an update on the new law.

We can’t talk about insurance (good old risk taking) without talking about safety (risk control and loss prevention). CGA Central Coast had a great speaker from OSHA Consulting discussing not only safety around drill rigs; but the new hot button (literally) Heat Illness Prevention. This one item requires a separate program for employers to protect employees from heat illness by providing water, shade and rest periods. Just know it’s mandatory!

See, you should come to the Board meetings once in awhile or attend CGA’s best face to face meeting to learn: the annual convention and trade show!! Check out CGA’s website for convention details.

If you need help or have questions, contact me, Bob Murphy, at 800-246-0901 or robert.murphy@wellsfargo.com

Did You Notice the Change?

The headline above starts with the type style (font) known as Times New Roman and ends with the font Arial. This newsletter contains both fonts and they are both the same size – 10 point type. We’d like to know which type style/font you find easier to read and which you prefer in the newsletter and other CGA printed materials. First 10 persons to call the CGA office with your preference win a souvenir 2000 tote bag! 707-578-4408.
A WORD FROM
THE STORE

by
Ty Martin
President – M/S President

Writing in the Future

I am writing this article in the middle of August to be published in the middle of September. I do not know what will be going on or had gone on from the time I wrote these words. My hope is that something will not have come up to make what I wrote, lose its value or become irrelevant. Just like in writing for the future we sometimes need to make business decisions in the same blind manner hoping that all will work out like we had planned. In business however we tend not to leave those precious outcomes to chance as much as it seems and do whatever we can to direct the outcome to what is most beneficial to our cause.

The CGA convention fits nicely into that category of planning it ahead of time and hoping that all will turn out successful. I believe that successful is the outcome that we all want for this event and leaves us with the “do whatever we can to make it successful” portion of the equation. So what are some of those things that we can do?

If you are a supplier, and have not yet reserved a booth for the trade show then now is the time. The more vendors we have equals more perceived value to the trade show attendees.

If you are a contractor, have you registered for the show yet? The suppliers like to have people to talk to and sell to at the trade show. The more bodies roaming the floor, makes it easier for the CGA to recruit more exhibitors.

Are you a member of the CGA? (Since you are reading this newsletter I assume that you are) then you are the marketing network machine that can help bring this whole thing together. Talk it up in your sphere of influence and let others know the value, excitement and opportunities that our trade show has to offer.

Finally, even though it is being held in a gambling city, let’s not leave our convention to chance but instead make it a sure bet by working together to make the 65th annual convention at the Peppermill, the best tradeshow ever!

Ty
FALL’s HERE!

The leaves will be changing soon...meaning Fall’s here! But wait, are the color changes that we see due to the season or is it due to lack of water last winter?

September’s Board Meeting will be held in Riverside at The Mission Inn. We really hope to see many Southern California CGA members at the meeting. When we held a meeting there a few years back, we heard so much positive feedback. The most interesting conversations were about how you were lost trying to find a room or an area. While there, see if you can join in a tour of the building — it is intriguing and very historic.

This also happens to be the location for our 2014 convention in Riverside's newly constructed Convention Center - another new location for us. The Mission Inn is one of three hotels that we will be offering to CGA during the October 2014 convention.

We are all very excited to experience the upcoming 2013 convention in a new venue. The Peppermill offers us most things that answer the feedback that we hear from members. The Peppermill also uses geothermal energy, drilled right there on-site — there’s a tour on Saturday!

The Education Committee is planning a great schedule of various seminars. Take a look, you are sure to find some items of interest to help you and your business.

The Fundraising Committee has some new Live and Silent Auction ideas in store for you! There will be specialty items, crocheted afghans and several other items — certainly you will find a treasure! Please come to share the new experience with us.

Cecy Insurance will again be sponsoring the CGAA luncheon program at the convention — THANK YOU! Besides a great lunch with our CGAA family, what will we be enjoying for the program? We have some fantastic ideas — but don’t worry, surprises are always fun and exciting! Well, come to the convention to see!

Here’s to a busy summer and fall for everyone, we hope to see you in Riverside at the Mission Inn and in Reno at the Peppermill for the Convention on October 24-26.

Cheers, Stephanie
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
by Mike Mortensson

SAY HELLO TO A NEW ERA!

As you may have noticed on the front page, I am leaving CGA after 24 years as your Executive Director. My contract expires on December 31, 2013 and the Executive Committee has decided not to renew it. January 1, 2014 will start a new era for CGA. I urge you all to embrace the changes to come for CGA in 2014 and beyond.

There’s an old World War II saying by Winston Churchill that has gotten lots of play in today’s social media. It starts with “Keep Calm” and you fill in the blanks. You might have seen the poster I got for my 70th birthday, posted on Facebook. I have it in my office (for a few months) and I say to all you supporters and members of our state’s groundwater industry:

“KEEP CALM AND CGA ON”.

That said, I have another column in the Winter 2013 newsletter to write so I have decided to wait until that issue to write about some of the challenges and successes of CGA that I have seen since I started with CGA in 1990.

In my last columns I have written about the value of CGA and that is always a key topic. Right now we are focusing on the value of FACE TO FACE MEETINGS to help you grow your business. By the time you read this, you should have gotten the CGA Convention attendee packet with a whole list of face to face opportunities for you and your employees. I hope you’ll have already registered for the 2013 Convention at the Peppermill Resort in Reno on October 24-26th.

If not, check out the 3 pages of product previews to see what the exhibitors are bringing to the show to help groundwater industry businesses, owners and employees do a better and more profitable job.

You’ll really like the FACE TO FACE MEETING with the CGA President if your name is drawn at the Grand Cash Prize Drawing on Friday, October 25. It will be a short but profitable meeting for someone who gets handed a $2500 (or more) check from CGA President Gary Mickelson.

The FACE TO FACE MEETINGS you can have at the BUSINESS, DRILLING, PUMP, WATER TREATMENT and REHS/TECHNICAL educational tracks will help you grow your business profits and recognition.

The FACE TO FACE MEETINGS you can have at the trade show reception and lunch and the Awards Banquet will expand your ability to solve problems and add business.

You can get a jumpstart on CGA’s NEW ERA by coming to the 65th Annual Convention. I hope to see you there – FACE TO FACE!
New or Experienced? Young or Old?
by Mike Mortensson, CGA Online Safety Contact

Who’s to blame for accidents in your company? New or Experienced employees? Young or Older Workers? At look at CGA’s workers compensation program loss analysis records reveal differences between employees in CGA’s two group programs. In the pump mfg/repair group 25% of the claims were for employees with 1-2 years of experience but 34% of claims were for those with 6-20 years on the job. When it comes to age, 50% of the claims involved employees in the 30-39 year old range. In this CGA group, being struck by an object accounted for 95% of the total claims cost – it was over $300,000 for the employee who suffered multi head injuries.

In CGA’s much larger Construction group 24% of the claims were for employees with 7 months-2 years of experience but 37% of claims were for those with 3-10 years on the job. Claims by age showed 33% for employees in the 20-29 year old range; 27% for 30-39 year olds and 23% for the 40-49 year group. Twisting injuries accounted for 23% of the total claims cost, averaging over $100,000 per claim.

These numbers can be mind boggling! So, who’s to blame? Well, there is more to the safety story. Rather than assigning blame for accidents we should be looking at ways to prevent accidents.

Doing loss analysis can give you some ideas on how to establish safety procedures and policies to minimize your company’s losses in dollars and productivity. It can lead to revisions in Injury and Illness Prevention Plans, safety sessions to identify job hazards that led to accidents, site safety inspections, commitment to hazard removal, weekly review of safety procedures as a routine part of the job, etc.

And let’s not forget the overlying safety attitude exhibited by company owners, key managers and front line supervisors. They all play a role in making your company a safe company. I just got a call from a young driller with 8 years of experience who is buying his Dad’s equipment and starting a new company. He wants to “hit the ground running to keep those whom I hire safe.”

NOW, THAT’S A GREAT ATTITUDE!!
AB 119, which is supported by the CGA, is still moving forward. AB 119 is being pushed by Assemblyman Luis Alejo (D-Salinas) and is co-sponsored by the Water Quality Association, the Pacific Water Quality Association, and environmental justice groups. AB 119 seeks to streamline the state’s certification process for water treatment devices.

Currently the California Department of Public Health (DPH) reviews the certifications already granted by independent, 3rd party testing organizations such as NSF and WQA. However, DPH does not have the manpower and resources to carry out this duplicative process in a reasonable amount of time. This prevents many new POE and POU products from being used in California.

CGA also supports SB 176-Galgiani, which seeks to streamline another government process, that of the regulatory and rulemaking procedure. SB 176 will require state agencies to consult with interested persons and those affected by a regulation at the very beginning of any rulemaking procedure and engage in outreach activities in connection with pre-rulemaking. CGA is part of a coalition that was formed by the CA Association of Realtors and the lobbyists from 23 business associations (CGA included).

AB 145-Perea (Watch) seeks to transfer the duties of the DPH to enforce the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act to the State Water Resources Control Board. The DPH has been under heavy criticism for failing to fulfill this mission. CGA is watching this bill but is taking no position.

Also the Assembly proposed a scaled down $5 billion water bond which would allow the state to expand underground and surface water storage, restore the Delta, and clean up existing groundwater.

Bond supporters report favorable polling for the bond effort which may appear on the November 2014 ballot. The vote on the water bond was postponed in 2010 because of the poor economy and in 2012 because the bond became loaded with pork (this bond version was priced at $11 billion).

The CA Resources Agency has recently announced that it plans to move the proposed Delta tunnel system away from private land in the north delta and situate it on a public land preserve by Interstate 5. This proposal will reduce the footprint of the delta tunnel facilities by half. Additionally, the proposed Delta Tunnel remains controversial.

The Legislature adjourns on September 13 for the 2013 legislative year. The Governor has until October 13 to sign or veto bills.

The CGA has two bills they are actively supporting (AB 119 and SB 176) and 16 other bills we are watching this year. We will be giving the CGA a comprehensive report at the end of the year.

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A Critical Illness plan from Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company can help many working Americans who may be one serious medical issue away from financial problems. Even with good health insurance, a serious illness, such as a heart attack or stroke, could leave employees on the hook for huge expenses.

“Even employees who plan for the unexpected with life, disability and medical insurance may find some expenses still unpaid,” says Randy Finn, director of product development for Colonial Life. “Without adequate protection, people who suffer a critical illness might have to pull from their savings or rely on the financial aid of family members.” Nearly a third of Americans report their family has had problems paying medical bills, with 18% reporting bills in excess of $1,000.

A voluntary critical illness plan pays dollars to the insured when he or she is diagnosed with a specified disease. The insured can choose to apply the money to medical expenses, such as deductibles, treatment bills, rehabilitation or home health care expenses. Or, the insured can use the money for nonmedical expenses such as mortgages, groceries, electric bills, child care, or travel to and from a treatment center.

“With a critical illness plan,” Finn says, “employees will have the money they need while recovering so they can focus on getting well instead of paying the bills.”

Colonial Life’s Critical Illness Plan Covered illnesses:
- Cancer
- Heart attack (myocardial infarction)
- Stroke
- Major organ failure
- End stage renal (kidney) failure
- Permanent paralysis caused by a covered accident
- Coma
- Blindness
- Occupational infectious HIV/ Hepatitis B, C or D
- Coronary artery bypass graft surgery
- Carcinoma in some situations

A voluntary critical illness plan also will help you and your family stay well with annual wellness/health screening benefits. Plans are available for employees, spouses, and their dependent children. “A critical illness plan is for survivors,” Finn says. “Some insureds may never be able to return to their old lifestyle, their same jobs or return to work at all. Instead, they’ll face a new way of life focused on recuperation, recovery and rehabilitation. Benefits from a critical illness plan can help ease financial worries and close coverage gaps.”

For more information about Colonial Life’s plan and other Voluntary options, please contact Kelly Doherty, CGA Benefit Consultant, 707-326-2031 or Kelly@qaim.com.
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A NOTE OF SCHOLARSHIP THANKS
from Tammy Schwinegruber, 2012 winner
May 28, 2013

I am excited to share my progress with you since I was awarded your scholarship in 2012. It’s been a busy and productive year which wouldn’t have happened without your support.

First, I was chosen to present my research at Honors Transfer Council of California, a prestigious event held at the UC Irvine and I was published in their annual publication.

This gained me recognition and several scholarships in 2013, but also attributed to a special honor. I was chosen to represent the Mesa honor students as a speaker at the annual Honor’s reception. My success this year also gained me the title of Miramar College’s 2013 Commencement Speaker as well.

I am excited to be developing my communication and public speaking skills. Then I can work with businesses and community members showing them how conserving water can ultimately increase their profits while saving our precious resources.

Thanks to your support, I was able to focus on my studies and give back to the community (working with San Diego Beach Improvement Group, Promises to Kids, and I Love a Clean San Diego).

But, the most impressive award I earned because of your support was the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. I am one of 73 selected from 768 applicants nationwide to earn this scholarship of up to $30,000 annually until I complete my undergraduate studies.

Thank you for believing in me and making this possible.
Tammy

2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SAYS:
Demostenes H. Santiago, winner of the 2013 Water Scholarship is enrolled at San Diego State University where he is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. He writes “At the risk of being repetitive, I would like to reemphasize my thanks for the award of this scholarship. It has already gone a long way to alleviate the financial stresses of attending classes on a campus that is almost 40 miles away from where I live. Yours is an organization that truly understands the meaning of altruism.

Demostenes

Tomorrow’s Groundwater Leaders Are Among Us … Encourage Our Industry’s Growth

Editor’s Note: The 2014 CGA Scholarship submittal period will begin on January 1, 2014. Applications are due in the CGA office on March 15, 2014.
CONDOLENCES
CGA is sad to report that the following CGA members passed away earlier this year:

Life Time Member Herb Schwartz, Jr.
Herb Schwartz & Sons

Dick Duval
Duval’s Well Drilling

Jerry Thompson
Weeks Drilling and Pump

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families.

CA AG IRRIGATION CONFERENCE
Legislative issues and technical topics will highlight the 2013 CA Ag Irrigation Conference in Chico on September 18-19. The conference, sponsored by California Agriculture Irrigation Association (CAIA) will feature insight and perspectives on water issues by Sandra Schubert, CA Department of Food and Agriculture Undersecretary. Joe Karkoski, Program Manager of the Central California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program will outline new efforts affecting CA irrigators. Dennis Albiani, CAIA’s lobbyist, Jamie Johansson of the CA Farm Bureau & Jim Anhutz of the Grange Network will also speak. There’s a tour of the Feather River Fish Hatchery and Lake Oroville. More info: www.calirrigation.com/events.shtml.

Sponsor & Donor Thanks
CGA gratefully thanks the following who have already offered their support of:

2013 Board of Directors Luncheons
Baroid IDP
Franklin Electric
Lakos Separators
Preferred Pump & Equipment

2013 Trade Show Lunch
CGA M/S Division

2013 Grand Cash Prize Drawing
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Western Hydro Corp.
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2013 CGAA Luncheon Program
CECY Insurance Services

2013 CGA Texas Hold’em Poker Tourney
101 Pipe & Casing

2013 Golf Tourney Hole Signs
Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Geoconsultants, Inc.
Foremost

2013 Auction Items
Cruise to Catalina with 2 nights on yacht –Bob Guardino
Two 2-night stays - Peppermill Resort
Gift Certificate - NGWA bookstore
Wine - Commercial Pump & Mechanical
Gift Basket - Lakos Filtration Systems
Sculpture - Secret Donor
Restaurant Gift Card - Pure Effect

Check the CGA website’s 2013 Live and Silent Auction Lists often to see what great items you might bring home!

2013 CGA GOALS
STOP – LOOK - LISTEN

STOP CGA’s downward economic trend
LOOK for and encourage participation by new & existing members
LISTEN to the voices of change

We’re making progress on these goals. You can help too! Come to the CGA convention and talk to CGA leaders! And before the convention, bring in a new member to the CGA family – they can now join at a half year rate of only $188!

CGA WAGON
Take home your prizes in a new CGA canvas lined, collapsible wagon (150lb weight capacity)! It will already be filled with some goodies such as gift cards, golf balls, hotel stay, etc. Get raffle tickets on the trade show floor.
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