



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

APRIL 9-11

PLUS APRIL 8
FUN NIGHT 8

REGISTER NOW

ENTER INTO GEOTECHNICAL WONDER

SPONSORS + INDEX

GOLD SPONSORS



THURSDAY NIGHT
TASTE OF SF



THURSDAY NIGHT
TASTE OF SF



FRIDAY LUNCHEON
PROJECT AWARDS



THURSDAY LUNCHEON
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
OPENING RECEPTION



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
OPENING RECEPTION



THU-FRI ALL BREAKS
WEDNESDAY FIELD TRIPS



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
HOSTED NETWORKING



WED-FRI
ALL BREAKFASTS



THU-FRI
ALL BREAKS



WED-FRI
ALL BREAKFASTS



WEDNESDAY MORNING
SHORT COURSES

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KEY

**Technical Focus**

Management/Business Focus

* Additional Cost Above Full Registration

SCHEDULE

TUE APR 8		EVENT	DETAILS / SPEAKER
	2 ⁰⁰ –6 ⁰⁰ PM	Board Meeting (Current Board Members Only)	Oracle Park
	6 ⁴⁵ –10 ⁰⁰ PM	San Francisco Giants vs. Cincinnati Reds Social*	Oracle Park
WED APR 9		EVENT	DETAILS / SPEAKER
	8 ⁰⁰ AM–12 ⁰⁰ PM	Successful Legal Strategies in Addressing and Ensuring Compliance with the Prevailing Wage, Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements*	Van Goodwin, Esq. and Keith Goodwin, Esq.
	8 ⁰⁰ AM–12 ⁰⁰ PM	Loss Prevention and Ethics for Managers in the Geoprofessions*	Tom Blackburn, PE, GE and Ji Shin, Esq
	9 ⁰⁰ AM–12 ⁰⁰ PM	Presentation and Interaction Skills for Emerging Geoprofessionals*	Neal Berliner, PE, GE, and Nick Bundra, CAE
	12 ⁰⁰ –1 ⁰⁰ PM	Lunch for Short Course Attendees Only	Short Course Attendees Only
	12 ⁰⁰ –1 ³⁰ PM	Past Presidents Luncheon	VP, President, Past Presidents Only
	1 ⁰⁰ –5 ³⁰ PM	Treasure Island Tour with Happy Hour*	ENGEO
	1 ⁰⁰ –5 ³⁰ PM	Mission Rock Tour with Happy Hour*	Langan
	5 ⁴⁵ –6 ¹⁵ PM	Affiliate Round Table	President Noah Smith, PE, GE
	6 ³⁰ –7 ⁰⁰ PM	New Member / First-Timer Meet and Greet (Have a Refreshment, Meet the Board)	Noted Attendees Invited
	7 ⁰⁰ –9 ⁰⁰ PM	Opening Reception Happy Hour	All Full Conference Attendees Invited
	9 ⁰⁰ –11 ⁰⁰ PM	Hosted Networking Night with Refreshments	All Full Conference Attendees Invited
THU APR 10		EVENT	DETAILS / SPEAKER
	7 ⁰⁰ –8 ³⁰ AM	Check-In, Breakfast	All Full Conference Attendees Invited
	8 ⁰⁰ –8 ³⁰ AM	General Membership Meeting	Includes Approval of 2025-2026 Ballot
	8 ³⁰ –9 ³⁰ AM	Foundation Stiffness in Structural Analysis - Separating Fact, Fiction, and Fantasy	Ben Turner, PhD, PE, GE
	9 ³⁰ –10 ⁰⁰ AM	Break	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	10 ⁰⁰ –11 ⁰⁰ AM	Displacement-Based Design of Axially Loaded Piles for Seismic Loading and Liquefaction-Induced Downdrag	Katerina Ziotopoulou, PhD, PE
	11 ⁰⁰ –11 ³⁰ AM	Break	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	11 ³⁰ AM–12 ⁴⁵ PM	Networking Sponsored Luncheon Featuring Women in Engineering	Ji Shin, Esq, Katerina Ziotopoulou, PhD, PE
	12 ⁴⁵ –1 ³⁰ PM	2025 Labor and Employment Law Update	Van Goodwin, Esq
	1 ³⁰ –2 ⁰⁰ PM	Break	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	2 ⁰⁰ –2 ⁴⁰ PM	Dam Instrumentation - A Geotechnical Perspective	Neil Anderson, PE
	2 ⁴⁰ –3 ¹⁰ PM	Legislative Update	Voleck Taing
	3 ⁰⁰ –4 ⁰⁰ PM	San Francisco Chinatown Station and Cross-Town Muni	Vojtech Gall, PhD, PE
	4 ⁰⁰ –6 ⁰⁰ PM	Break (Exhibits Close at 4:30 pm)	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	6 ⁰⁰ –9 ⁰⁰ PM	Banquet/Student Fundraiser - Taste of San Francisco	All Full Conference Attendees Invited
FRI APRIL 11		EVENT	DETAILS / SPEAKER
	7 ⁰⁰ –8 ³⁰ AM	Breakfast	All Full Conference Attendees Invited
	8 ⁰⁰ –9 ⁰⁰ AM	The Uniqueness of Bay Area Geology and Its Ongoing Implications for the Geoprofessions	Robert Kayen, PhD
	9 ⁰⁰ –9 ³⁰ AM	Break	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	9 ³⁰ –10 ³⁰ AM	California Geological Survey: Important Insights for Practitioners	Chase White, PE, GE, PG, CEG
	10 ³⁰ –11 ⁰⁰ AM	Break	Reenergize, Network, Visit Our Affiliates
	11 ⁰⁰ AM–12 ³⁰ PM	OPAs Luncheon	Sponsor Talk, OPA Awards
	12 ³⁰ –1 ³⁰ PM	Deep Excavation Monitoring	Kenichi Soga, PhD, PE
	1 ³⁰ –2 ³⁰ PM	Economics Forecast	Robert Eyler, PhD
	2 ³⁰ –2 ³⁵ PM	President's Close	President Noah Smith, PE, GE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

SHORT COURSES



Van Goodwin



Keith Goodwin

SUCCESSFUL LEGAL STRATEGIES USED IN ADDRESSING AND ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PREVAILING WAGE, APPRENTICESHIP, SKILLED & TRAINED WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS | 8:00 AM - NOON

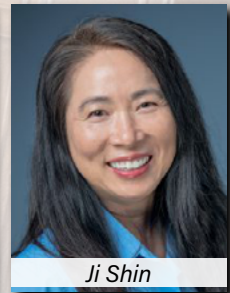
Long-time employment and labor relations attorney Van Goodwin, Esq., Senior Counsel at Littler Mendelson, P.C., has defended employers in complex employment litigation in state and federal courts and in agency proceedings involving wage and hour issues, including federal and state prevailing wage matters, for over 40 years, and has frequently served as a speaker at our Annual Conferences in the past. For this short course, he partners with Keith Goodwin, Esq., a Senior Associate with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP's Labor & Employment Practice Group in San Diego. Keith has also represented public, private, and non-profit employers in employment and wage and hour litigation matters before state and federal courts, arbitration tribunals, and federal and state administrative agencies, and has extensive experience federal and State prevailing wage law matters. Together they will discuss successful legal strategies for addressing actions taken against geoprofessional firms related to Prevailing Wage, Apprenticeship, and Skilled & Trained Workforce requirements. They will identify practices that create additional liability for your firm and describe ways to avoid them and ensure legal compliance. They will also discuss the emergence of Project Labor Agreements and the important strategic considerations that need to be examined before entering into a PLA.

LOSS PREVENTION AND ETHICS FOR MANAGERS IN THE GEOPROFESSIONS | 8:00 AM - NOON

Ji Shin, Esq., President and CEO of Earth Systems, and Tom Blackburn, PE, GE, F.ASCE, F.ACEC, President of Blackburn Consulting will provide a short course for managers on navigating some of the most critical loss prevention and ethics issues they face in their roles. Prior to her current role, Ji spent over twenty years overseeing and working in Earth Systems' legal affairs, including risk management, contract negotiations, litigation management, professional liability claims, and employment law. A widely respected business owner for more than 25 years, Tom is regularly called upon in forensic cases where he has gained an increasing understanding of the mismanagement and ethical issues that regularly cause loss for geoprofessional firms. Besides the more egregious scenarios that create lawsuits, Ji and Tom will also cover managing other common issues that can create loss for the companies. These include addressing employee turnover (cost of hiring, loss in project continuity, specific knowledge acquisition, etc.) and properly understanding contracts and scopes. They will explore potential ethical considerations that may arise while taking steps to prevent loss and manage risk.



Tom Blackburn



Ji Shin



Neal Berliner



Heather Hutcheson



Nick Bundra

PRESENTATION AND INTERACTION SKILLS FOR EMERGING PROFESSIONALS | 9:00 AM - NOON

Neal Berliner, PE, GE, President of Geocon West, English Professor Heather Hutcheson, and Nick Bundra, CAE, Executive Director of CalGeo, pair up in this course to support emerging professionals (under ten years experience) in communicating in the office and in the field each day. Learn steps to:

- Understand and effectively communicate with professionals different than you in both everyday and difficult discussions
- Overcome nervousness and crush your communications in group settings
- Be heard and respected via in-person and written communication

SHORT COURSES SPONSORED BY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

FIELD TRIPS + EVENTS

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TREASURE ISLAND TOUR & HAPPY HOUR
1:00-5:00 PM

LANGAN

ENGEO

MISSION ROCK TOUR & HAPPY HOUR
1:00-5:00 PM

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HOSTED NETWORKING
9:00-11:00 PM



Terēan™
Seismic Revelations

GEOPIER®

OPENING RECEPTION HAPPY HOUR
7:00-9:00 PM

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10

PLENARY SESSIONS



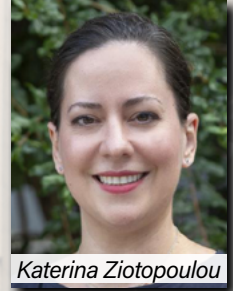
Ben Turner

FOUNDATION STIFFNESS IN STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS - SEPARATING FACT, FICTION, AND FANTASY | 8:30-9:30 AM

Concepts such as depth of fixity for deep foundations and modulus of subgrade reaction for mats or shallow foundations generate much confusion between geotechnical and structural engineers. Ask five engineers to define these concepts and you'll get as many answers. As geoprofessionals, we can better serve our clients and structural colleagues by having a clear understanding of these concepts and being able to explain exactly what it is we are providing as input for structural analysis models. This presentation will start by explaining how structural designers use these parameters in their analysis and the potential adverse effects of modeling unrealistic foundation stiffness. Examples based on real projects will then be provided for the definition and calculation of depth of fixity, foundation stiffness springs for pile groups, modulus of subgrade reaction for shallow foundations, and – the holy grail of stiffness problems – the combined stiffness behavior of a piled raft. The presentation will highlight the importance of viewing foundation stiffness as a soil-structure interaction problem, not a fundamental property of soil alone or “soil springs” as it is often mischaracterized.

DISPLACEMENT-BASED DESIGN OF AXIALLY LOADED PILES FOR SEISMIC LOADING AND LIQUEFACTION-INDUCED DOWDRAG | 10:00-11:00 AM

In this presentation, Katerina Ziotopoulou, PhD, PE, UC Davis Association Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering will demonstrate the practical applicability of the displacement-based design method through example design problems. Her presentation is based on a new method she has helped developed. For background, axially loaded piles in liquefiable soils can undergo severe settlements due to a shaking event. During shaking, the settlement is caused by the reduction of its shaft and tip capacity from the excess pore pressures generated around the pile. Post shaking, additional pile settlement is caused by the surrounding soil settling due to reconsolidation and the associated development of drag load. The new displacement-based method was developed using a TzQzLiq analysis for designing axially loaded piles subject to seismic loading and liquefaction-induced downdrag. The new displacement-based design method offers several advancements to the state of practice forced-based design procedure by AASHTO's force-based design procedure by reasonably accounting for the mechanisms that occur on axially loaded piles during and post shaking. It accounts for the initial drag load on the pile, redistribution effects resulting in large excess pore pressures in the non-liquefied layers, and reduction in the pile's shaft and tip capacity from excess pore pressures around the pile. The new design procedure estimates the pile settlement and axial load distribution during the entire shaking event, i.e., during shaking and reconsolidation.



Katerina Ziotopoulou



Katerina Ziotopoulou



Ji Shin

NETWORKING SPONSORED LUNCH FEATURING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Join us as Keller provides a sponsored lunch that will feature stories and advice from women making a large impact in the field of engineering. Also, building on last year's success and interactive format, plan on more trivia and more prizes!



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THURSDAY, APRIL 10

PLENARY SESSIONS



Van Goodwin



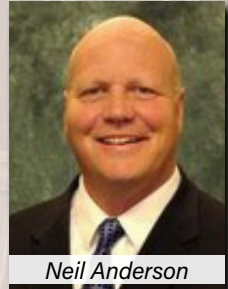
Keith Goodwin

2025 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE | 12:45-1:30 PM

For this plenary session, long-time employment and labor relations attorney Van Goodwin, Esq., Senior Counsel at Littler Mendelson, P.C., partners with Keith Goodwin, Esq., a Senior Associate with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP's Labor & Employment Practice Group in San Diego. Both attorneys have represented public, private, and non-profit employers in employment and wage and hour litigation matters before state and federal courts, arbitration tribunals, and federal and state administrative agencies, and have extensive experience with federal and state prevailing wage law matters. They will provide an update on the employment and labor law developments of critical relevance to geoprofessional firms in California. This will also include a broad overview of the current state of Project Labor Agreements, Skilled and Trained Workforce, and Prevailing Wage requirements.

DAM INSTRUMENTATION - A GEOTECHNICAL PERSPECTIVE | 2:00-2:40 PM

Neil Anderson, PE, GE, has over 35 years of experience in providing engineering design solutions for state, county, and municipal agencies including DSA, Caltrans, and USACE as well as for private sector clients. Over the last 12 years, he has supported in the seismic or functional upgrade of six large dams in California: Los Vaqueros, Calaveras, Folsom, Perris, Oroville, and Isabella. With technical advancements and cost reductions in geotechnical sensors, data loggers, and wireless technology, many dam owners have or are considering automating the required health monitoring of their dam. This is often initiated by construction of seismic upgrades to the facility. These projects have involved sensor installation and monitoring during construction and installation of a permanent Automated Data Acquisition System (ADAS) to monitor the long-term performance of the dam. During these projects several lessons have been learned about issues and conditions which may be considered when detailing, installing, and maintaining functional geotechnical instrumentation and the associated ADAS.



Neil Anderson

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM ACEC CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ADVOCATE | 2:40-3:10 PM

Voleck Taing will provide an update on recent and pending legislative developments affecting the geoprofessions. A registered lobbyist, Voleck is responsible for managing ACEC California's advocacy effort, working with the legislative team to develop and direct the organization's legislative program while strengthening and maintaining coalition relationships with ACEC California members, other associations industry leaders, and elected officials. Prior to joining ACEC California, Voleck served as Sr. Vice President of Government Relations for a business association and as legislative director for the former California State Assembly Majority Leader and numerous respected Assemblymembers.



Voleck Taing

SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN STATION AND CROSS-TOWN MUNI | 3:10-4:00 PM

Vojtech Gall, PhD, PE, has over 35 years of experience in the design, construction, and construction management of tunnels and underground structures. His expertise encompasses soft-ground, mixed-face, and rock-tunneling utilizing Mechanical (TBM), conventional tunneling (SEM/NATM), and cut-and-cover excavation methods. He oversaw the design of the Chinatown Station which used Sequential Excavation Method (SEM) to minimize surface disruption and the impact on the public, traffic, and businesses. The station length is 630 feet with cross-sections up to 55 feet, excavated in one of the most densely populated areas in San Francisco. During excavation, they encountered mixed face conditions with soft soils near the surface (Colma Formation and Colluvium) and weak Franciscan Formation rock at lower elevations. He will describe the geotechnical challenges encountered during investigation, design, and excavation and the mitigation techniques used.



Vojtech Gall

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

BANQUET & STUDENT FUNDRAISER 6:00-9:00 PM

Join us above the city with views of the bay as we enjoy food from across our host city, enjoy live music, and raise funds for our student chapters.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11

PLENARY SESSIONS



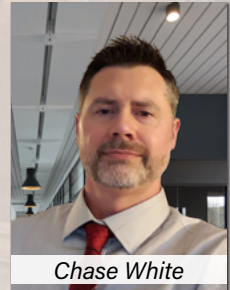
THE UNIQUENESS OF BAY AREA GEOLOGY AND ITS ONGOING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GEOPROFESSIONS | 8:00-9:00 AM

Robert Kayen, PhD, recently retired from his role as Senior Scientist at the USGS and continues to serve as Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley. A founding member of the National Science Foundation's GEER, his talk will focus on fascinating and unique features of Bay Area geology and how the corresponding tectonics, seismology, and natural hazards, including climate change effects, will continue to increasingly affect geotechnical engineering decisions.

Robert Kayen

CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY: IMPORTANT INSIGHTS FOR PRACTITIONERS | 9:30-10:30 AM

Chase White, PE, GE, PG, CEG, Senior Geotechnical Engineer & Engineering Geologist at the California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazards Program, will provide insights to help your firm understand how to effectively navigate the CGS review process. He will address what has been helping practitioners have a successful review cycle historically through the lens of the geotechnical design and the review process for solar and shade structure projects at schools. This will include providing some feedback on the successes and failures of practitioners in following building code and geotechnical design requirements for these projects. Additionally, he will provide updates on other products that CGS is developing, including new Seismic Hazard Zone maps and reports that include historic high groundwater level data.



Chase White

OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS

The Outstanding Project Awards luncheon recognizes top projects by CalGeo members in a Geotechnical Contractor Category (public or private) and six Geotechnical Consulting Categories. See past winners and honorable mentions [HERE](#). For this year, [download the rules flyer](#) and [submit](#) through December 31.

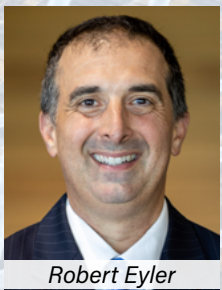


DEEP EXCAVATION MONITORING | 12:30-1:30 PM

Kenichi Soga, PhD, is the Donald H. McLaughlin Professor in Mineral Engineering and a Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley. He specializes in the intersection of infrastructure sensing, performance-based design and maintenance, and geomechanics analysis. In his presentation, he will showcase case studies that highlight the latest advancements in deep excavation monitoring, ranging from conventional methods to fiber optic sensing. He will also discuss the necessary steps to ensure proper observation of a site alongside the instrumentation used.



Kenichi Soga



ECONOMICS FORECAST | 1:30 - 2:30 PM

A change in regime means a change in economic policies and the economy. Dr. Robert Eyler has studied the national and state economies for three decades and will describe how changes may come in the wake of the election cycle. Beyond that top-of-mind issue, Dr. Eyler will also address the several other factors driving national and global economics, what that means for California's economy, construction, housing, and jobs, and how demography may start playing a larger role along with climate change in state and national economic policy decisions.

Robert Eyler

REGISTRATION

PRICING BY DEADLINE

REGISTER HERE

All pricing is listed as Member / Nonmember. *Emerging Professionals get a \$200 discount on this short course with a full conference registration.

PROFESSIONAL OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD (BY JAN 31)	REGULAR (BY FEB 28)	LATE (BY MAR 31)
FULL CONFERENCE <i>WED HAPPY HOUR - FRI CLOSING</i>	\$1099 / \$1299	\$1199 / \$1399	\$1399 / \$1599
SUCCESSFUL LEGAL STRATEGIES <i>WED MORNING SHORT COURSE</i>	\$399 / \$499	\$449 / \$549	\$549 / \$649
LOSS PREVENTION AND ETHICS <i>WED MORNING SHORT COURSE</i>	\$399 / \$499	\$449 / \$549	\$549 / \$649
PRESENTATION AND INTERACTION SKILLS* <i>WED MORNING SHORT COURSE</i>	\$299 / \$399	\$349 / \$449	\$449 / \$549
TREASURE ISLAND <i>WED AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP AND HAPPY HOUR</i>	\$100 / \$150	\$125 / \$175	\$175 / \$225
MISSION ROCK <i>WED AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP AND HAPPY HOUR</i>	\$100 / \$150	\$125 / \$175	\$175 / \$225
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS GAME <i>TUE @ 6:45 PM vs. CINCINNATI REDS (SEC 105)</i>	\$40 / \$80	\$50 / \$100	\$60 / \$120
GUEST RECEPTION OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD (BY JAN 31)	REGULAR (BY FEB 28)	LATE (BY MAR 31)
WED HAPPY HOUR + THU TASTE OF SF	\$450 / \$550	\$500 / \$600	\$550 / \$650
WED HAPPY HOUR ONLY	\$200 / \$250	\$225 / \$275	\$250 / \$300
THU TASTE OF SF ONLY	\$300 / \$350	\$325 / \$375	\$350 / \$400

LOCATION & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Westin St. Francis San Francisco on Union Square

335 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 397-7000

Airports

OAK (20 Miles)
SFO (14 Miles)

Public Transportation

Powell Street Station (0.2 Miles)

Parking

Valet is \$78 + tax. Other parking garages/lots at variable rates are near the hotel.

HOTEL ROOM RATES

Deluxe Tower King/Double - \$279 + Tax

(Guests May Request an Equivalent Room in the Landmark Building)

[HOTEL BOOKING LINK](#)

***LAST DAY TO BOOK IS MARCH 17, 2024 - ROOM BLOCK MAY SELL OUT EARLIER**