



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 8 - 10

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DESERT VIBE: GEODESIGN FOR HUMAN LIFE

WELCOME TO CALGEO 2026 CONFERENCE

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DESERT GOLD EVENTS



WEDNESDAY NIGHT OPENING RECEPTION

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THURSDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET & STUDENT FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY SAN ANDREAS FIELD TRIP SPONSORS TBA

PALMS



THURSDAY LUNCHEON



THURSDAY NIGHT
OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS

FRIDAY LUNCHEON
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WEDNESDAY NIGHT
HOSTED NETWORKING



FRIDAY CRAFT DRINKS & BINGO



ALL BREAKFASTS

BREAKS SPONSORS TBA

KEY

T

Technical Focus

M

Management/Business Focus

* Additional Cost Above Full Registration

SCHEDULE

TUE APR 7	EVENT	LOCATION
2 ⁴⁵ –6 ⁰⁰ PM	Board Meeting	
6 ⁰⁰ –9 ⁰⁰ PM	Board Dinner with Significant Others	

WED APR 8	EVENT	LOCATION
9 ³⁰ –11 AM	Past President’s Brunch	TBA
11 AM–1 PM	Golf Check-In / Putting Contest / Quick Hacks, Lessons for Beginners	Palms Course
1–6 PM	*Golf Tournament (with Incentives for Student / EP Inclusion)	Palms Course
7–9 PM	Masters-Themed Opening Reception	The Pointe
9–10 PM	Hosted Networking	The Pointe

THU APR 9	EVENT	LOCATION
7–8 ³⁰ AM	Breakfast	Springs - Salon F
8–8 ³⁰ AM	General Membership Meeting	Springs - Salon F
T 8 ³⁰ –9 ³⁰ AM	Lucy Jones: Building for Resiliency Against Earthquakes and Other Geo-Hazards	Springs - Salon F
9 ³⁰ –10 AM	Break / Visit Exhibitors	Springs - Salon G
T 10–11 AM	Ellen Rathje: Learning from Earthquakes and Other Natural Hazards	Springs - Salon F
11–11 ³⁰ AM	Break / Visit Exhibitors	Springs - Salon G
M 11 ³⁰ AM–12 ⁴⁵ PM	Networking Sponsored Luncheon Featuring Women in Engineering	Springs - Salon F
M 12 ⁴⁵ –2 PM	Tom Blackburn, John Broghammer, Mike Phipps, with Tom Farrell Forensics Panel on Mitigating Litigation Risk	Springs - Salon F
2–2 ³⁰ PM	Break / Visit Exhibitors	Springs - Salon G
T 2 ³⁰ –4 PM	Micro Course / Parallel Sessions Robb Moss: Advances in Earthquake Engineering Reconnaissance Technology Over the Last 25 Years Vic Donald: AI Business Focus	Springs - Salon F & Salons A-E
4–6 PM	Break / Visit Exhibitors	Springs - Salon G
6–9 PM	Awards Banquet and Student Fundraiser with Outstanding Project Awards Presentation	Springs - Salon F

FRI APRIL 10	EVENT	LOCATION
7–11 AM	San Andreas Fault Geology Tour with Tom Rockwell - Salt Creek - Breakfast in Transit	Take Busses from JW Marriott
T 11–11 ³⁰ AM	Tom Rockwell: San Andreas Fault Geology Talk	Springs - Salon F
11 ³⁰ AM–12 ³⁰ PM	Networking Bingo with Exhibitors + Craft Drinks	Springs - Salon G
T 12 ³⁰ –1 ³⁰ PM	Luncheon with Talk - Jonathan Bray: Post-Event Reconnaissance Advances Geotechnical Engineering	Springs - Salon F
M 1 ³⁰ –2 ³⁰ PM	Keahn Morris and Kevin Connor: PLAs - Insights from California Public Construction	Springs - Salon G
2 ³⁰ –2 ³⁵ PM	Mike Watari - President’s Close	Springs - Salon F

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

PALMS COURSE GOLF TOURNAMENT

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Check In | Putting Contest | Lessons for Beginners

1:00 - 6:00 PM

Shotgun Start

Multiple Contests, Beverages, and Lunch Included

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Awards, Masters-Themed Reception at The Pointe

FORMAT

Team Scramble (Full Team Plays Best Ball After Each Shot)

AWARDS

Trophies for Members of 1st and 2nd Place Teams

Prizes for Putting Contest Winner; Male/Female Winners of Longest

Drive Contests and Closest to the Pin Contests

TEAM (\$100 Discount)

INDIVIDUAL

MEMBER

\$1200

\$325

NON-MEMBER

\$1600

\$425

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH.

EMAIL INFO@CALGEO.ORG TO RECEIVE A \$50 CREDIT FOR EACH EMERGING PROFESSIONAL (UNDER 10 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY) AND A \$100 CREDIT FOR EACH STUDENT IN YOUR FOURSOME.

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REGISTER FOR GOLF NOW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

OPENING RECEPTION PARTY 7-9 PM

MASTERS THEMED

DRESS IN YOUR BEST MASTERS ATTIRE!

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LUCY JONES, PhD | 8:30 - 9:30 AM

DESIGNING AND BUILDING FOR RESILIENCY AGAINST EARTHQUAKES AND OTHER GEO-HAZARDS

Dr. Lucy Jones founded the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society in 2016 after 33 years of public service as a seismologist with the US Geological Survey, often deployed after earthquakes to counsel and inform the rattled public. The center's mission is to foster the understanding and application of scientific information in the creation of more resilient communities. It expands the work of Dr. Jones in communities and cities across the country and around the globe. Through her public advocacy for risk reduction, she has dramatically changed the way Californians prepare for and react to disasters. Her talk will address the role of geoprofessionals in this endeavor.



ELLEN RATHJE, PhD, PE, NAE, FASCE | 10:00 - 11:00 AM

LEARNING FROM EARTHQUAKES AND OTHER NATURAL HAZARDS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Field observations of damage from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, have played a critical role in advancing natural hazards engineering and allied disciplines in the sciences. In geotechnical engineering, the response of natural soil deposits exposed to extreme loadings is difficult to replicate in the laboratory, which makes reconnaissance efforts an important task for advancing the field. Although the geotechnical effects of natural hazards have been studied formally for more than 50 years, there has been recent progress made in reconnaissance team coordination, field data collection, formal data publication of collected datasets, and training. This presentation provides an overview of this evolution of geotechnical reconnaissance for natural hazards through the lens of activities facilitated by the National Science Foundation-funded Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance Association (GEER) and the Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) in the United States. Case studies from several natural hazard events—including the 1999 Kocaeli earthquake and the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes—are included.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

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ELLEN RATHJE



LINDSEY ANGELL

ELLEN RATHJE, PhD, PE, NAE, FASCE with LINDSEY ANGELL, PE
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING TALK & LUNCHEON | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

TOM BLACKBURN, PE, GE, FASCE | MIKE PHIPPS, PG, CEG | JOHN BROGHAMMER, Esq with TOM FARRELL, PE, GE
FORENSICS PANEL - MITIGATING LITIGATION RISK | 12:45 - 2:00 PM

A clear and well-defined contract is critical for managing owner expectations regarding scope of work, standard of care, and indemnity. Consulting teams must strictly adhere to contract terms, as common mistakes often arise from unclear communication or undocumented changes. Important contractual considerations include establishing limitations of liability and remedies, and avoiding language that unintentionally expands professional obligations. Understanding Board of Registration actions related to licensure, settlements, and judgments is vital, as is recognizing the potential consequences of refusing a settlement. Professionals should also aim to resolve disputes early to minimize risk and cost. Prioritizing client objectives such as cost or timelines over the standard of care can lead to significant professional and legal exposure. Caution is necessary when becoming the engineer of record on projects with a change in that role, given the heightened responsibilities involved. Managing safety proactively is essential to reducing litigation risk, and assessing the character and reliability of clients, contractors, and project partners early helps establish strong, trustworthy working relationships.



TOM BLACKBURN



MIKE PHIPPS



JOHN BROGHAMMER



TOM FARRELL

PLENARY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

MICRO COURSES PARALLEL SESSIONS

MICRO COURSE – TECHNICAL TALK WITH ROBB MOSS, PhD, PE, FASCE - 2:30 - 4:00 PM ADVANCES IN EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING RECONNAISSANCE TECHNOLOGY OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS

The technology we use to gather post-earthquake information has changed dramatically over the last quarter century. This talk will detail some of these changes as illustrated through many reconnaissance efforts over the years. Anecdotal stories will highlight the ups and downs of using new technology in field campaigns in Mexico, India, California, Turkey, Alaska, Russia, Nepal, and other seismic regions around the world.



MICRO COURSE – AI BUSINESS FOCUS WITH VIC DONALD, PE - 2:30 - 4:00 PM GBA's CRYSTAL BALL WORKSHOP – SHRINKING WORKFORCE AND AUTOMATION/AI, AN INTRIGUING FUTURE

In June 2025, Geoprofessional Business Association's Crystal Ball Workshop convened over 65 geopprofessionals representing over 45 firms and related organizations in Kansas City, Missouri. The workshop addressed the current and increasing future shortage of geopprofessionals in the workforce, the rapid advance of artificial intelligence and automation, and how these extremely impactful forces will change our profession. This presentation will summarize the findings of the workshop, including actions recommended by the workshop participants to allow our profession to thrive in this dramatically changing environment.

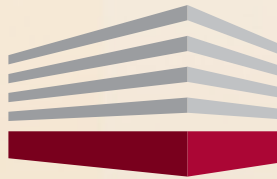
THURSDAY, APRIL 9

AWARDS BANQUET & STUDENT FUNDRAISER

6-9 PM

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10

SAN ANDREAS FAULT FIELD TRIP & LECTURE



TOM ROCKWELL LEADS SAN ANDREAS FAULT GEOLOGY TOUR - SALT CREEK, BREAKFAST IN TRANSIT | 7:00 - 11:00 AM

Join Tom Rockwell as he leads the geology tour of the San Andreas Fault, a continental right-lateral strike-slip transform fault that extends roughly 1,200 kilometers through the U.S. state of California. It forms part of the tectonic boundary between the Pacific plate and the North American plate.

LECTURE WITH TOM ROCKWELL, PHD

QUITE LATE: THE SAN ANDREAS' TARDINESS IN ITS EARTHQUAKE CYCLE | 11:00 - 11:30 AM

After returning from the tour, Tom Rockwell will relate the findings from the trip to the fault and present on why we consider the fault to be quite late in its earthquake cycle.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 BINGO, LUNCHEON & PLENARIES

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NETWORKING BINGO WITH EXHIBITORS & CRAFT DRINKS
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LUNCHEON & TALK WITH JONATHAN BRAY, PhD, PE, NAE 12:30 - 1:30 PM

POST-EVENT RECONNAISSANCE ADVANCES GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

Advancing performance-based design concepts and procedures in geotechnical engineering requires an understanding of what happens when an extreme event occurs. Documenting and sharing the key lessons learned from major events contribute significantly to advancing research and practice in geotechnical engineering design. Unanticipated observations from earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters often define new research directions. As an example, the recent studies of the liquefaction of fine-grained soil have been largely motivated by observations in post-earthquake reconnaissance efforts. Field observations are particularly important in geotechnical engineering because it is difficult to replicate in the laboratory the response of soil deposits built by nature over thousands of years. Detailed mapping and surveying of damaged and undamaged areas provides the data for the well-documented field case histories that drive the development of many of our design procedures.



JONATHAN BRAY



KEAHN MORRIS



KEVIN CONNER

KEAHN MORRIS, ESQ | KEVIN CONNER, PhD

PLAs IN CONTEXT: INSIGHTS FROM CALIFORNIA PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION 1:30 - 2:30 PM

The role of project labor agreements (PLAs) has shifted over time. Once considered concessionary, they have become a common tool for labor organizations, particularly in public construction. PLAs allow unions to negotiate terms and set labor standards even for non-union workers on the same project, while contractors gain no-strike clauses and reliable access to skilled labor. Their use reflects partisan politics, with Democratic administrations promoting PLAs and Republican administrations discouraging their use. Analysis of California public works data shows that political forces and project size are key drivers of PLA adoption, with business cycle volatility and procurement practices also playing a role.

REGISTRATION

PRICING BY DEADLINE

REGISTER HERE

All pricing is listed as Member / Nonmember.

PROFESSIONAL OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD (BY JAN 31)	REGULAR (BY FEB 28)	LATE (BY MAR 31)
FULL CONFERENCE WED EVENING - FRI CLOSING	\$1099 / \$1299	\$1199 / \$1399	\$1299 / \$1499

GUEST RECEPTION OPTIONS	EARLY BIRD (BY JAN 31)	REGULAR (BY FEB 28)	LATE (BY MAR 31)
WED RECEPTION & THU AWARDS BANQUET	\$450 / \$550	\$500 / \$600	\$550 / \$650
WEDNESDAY OPENING RECEPTION ONLY	\$200 / \$250	\$225 / \$275	\$250 / \$300
THURSDAY AWARDS BANQUET ONLY	\$300 / \$350	\$325 / \$375	\$350 / \$400

TRAVEL & LODGING

FLY, DRIVE, SLEEP

LOCATION & TRAVEL INFORMATION

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

74855 Country Club Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 341-2211

Airport

PSP - Palm Springs International Airport (12 Miles)

Parking

Self-Parking: Free

Valet Parking: \$45 Daily

HOTEL ROOM RATES

Standard Room - \$299 + Tax

Signature Suite - \$499 + Tax

[HOTEL BOOKING LINK](#)