

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety
Inspection Bureau, Materials Control
221 N. Figueroa St., #700
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2659

Christopher Diaz, GE
President

Attention: Ms. Lisa Yancey, Principal Inspector

Martin McLlroy, PE, GE, CEG
Vice President

RE: City of Los Angeles Policy for Deputy Exams During COVID-19

Michael Moscrop, GE
Treasurer

CalGeo represents California-licensed Geotechnical Engineers and Engineering Geologists, and their technical staff, in California. We understand that the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (Department) is not currently providing licensure testing during the COVID-19 pandemic; until further notice. Therefore, we request that the Department consider mitigations such as extending expiration dates for Department-managed licensing during this pandemic (presumably on the order of 90 days).

Neal Berliner, GE
Secretary

David Hamilton, GE
Past President

Michael Cazeneuve, PE, GE, CEG
Director

We believe Department services and our services, including geotechnical and construction-materials special inspection and testing, are essential services that are necessary to maintain infrastructure across California, and provide adequate housing within Los Angeles. This has been recognized by Federal and California government. Many other municipalities in California have made an effort to provide licensure testing available online during the pandemic. Also, Caltrans and the California Division of the State Architect (DSA), as examples, have pushed-out field technician and LEA laboratory licensing expiration dates, respectively, since on-site visits are contrary to current COVID-19 protocols and California employee travel restrictions. We therefore ask that the Department consider mitigations to keep these essential services staffed and moving forward timely, to reduce economic impact in Los Angeles and the region.

Noah Smith, GE
Director

Ron Skaggs, GE
Director

Michael Watari, PE, GE
Director

Tom Benson, PE, GE
Director

Eric Swenson PE, GE, CEG
Director

CalGeo respectfully requests that you consider mitigations to accommodate certification and re-certification suspension, such as allowing for a 90-day extension of expired certifications, on-line recertifications (and fee payments), on-line (e.g. Microsoft-*TEAMS*) interviews and/or other means acceptable to the Department. We are ready to assist in any way to develop a workable outcome. As you can appreciate, to reduce economic impact, this needs to be addressed in a timely manner.

Lindsey Angell PE
Director

Kelly Cabal
Executive Director

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Diaz, PE GE
President, CalGeo 2019-2020

Representing geotechnical professionals* throughout the State of California

*California-licensed Civil Engineers (geotechnical emphasis), Geotechnical Engineers, Professional Geologists, Certified Engineering Geologists and Hydrogeologists.