



SEATTLE SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2007
Volume 42 No. 5

Section Officers

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

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ASCE Seattle Section Joint Dinner Meeting With ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group

Thursday, January 25, 2006

**** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN REGULAR MEETING DAY ****

Place: McCormick & Schmick's Harborside Restaurant
1200 Westlake Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109

Cost: \$35 per person (\$40 for late reservations)
Students \$15
Spouses and guests are welcome.
Cash or checks payable to ASCE are accepted.

Meal: Chicken Marsala or Chef's Vegetarian

PLEASE RSVP WITH YOUR DINNER PREFERENCE

5:30 Socialize
6:30 Dinner
7:30 Program: Evaluation of Innovative Liquefaction Mitigation Strategies
8:30 End

Please make your reservations by
4pm Friday, January 19, by calling the receptionist at
Shannon & Wilson at 206-632-8020
or by sending an email to: rsvp@seattlegeotech.org
Cancellations and late RSVPs can be made until NOON on
Wednesday, January 24th.
No shows will be billed.

Evaluation of Innovative Liquefaction Mitigation Strategies

Kyle M. Rollins, Ph.D., of Brigham Young University will presenting January's program on Liquefaction Mitigation Strategies. Liquefaction continues to cause significant damage to constructed works throughout the world during large earthquakes. To mitigate the hazard posed by liquefaction, alternative improvement methods are often desirable. This presentation will highlight studies conducted to evaluate treatment methods such as (1) earthquake drains, (2) stone columns with wick drains in silty sands, and (3) colloidal silicate grouting. Earthquake drains have the potential to mitigate liquefaction hazards at a fraction of the cost of conventional densification strategies. Drains have been evaluated at several sites using controlled blasting as well as vibroseis trucks. Stone column treatment has typically been ineffective when fines contents exceed 20%; however, several case histories now suggest that the use of wick drains can facilitate improvement even with fines contents of 50%. Colloidal silicate treatment offers the potential for permeation grouting of liquefiable sand without damage to existing structures.

The deadline for the
February 2007 issue is
5:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, January 19, 2007
No exceptions.

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## President's Column

By Cliff Williams, PE

There are a number of Section Committees that remain inactive. Hopefully, the following comments will help spark some interest in restarting the committees.

We can all say we have been part of historic weather events over the last month and a half. We experienced the most rainfall ever recorded in Seattle in the month of November; there was extensive flooding and rivers changing course; we had an early snowfall which crippled the city for several days; and we have just gone through one of the worst wind storms the area has seen; with over 1 million losing power. It is all too fresh in our minds and we all have our own stories to tell how it affected us and how we coped. At the heart of all the stress is the impact these historic events have had on the infrastructure.

The heavy rains and flooding washed out roads and bridges and created landslides, isolating some people and forcing others to abandon their homes. We have to deal with snow and ice in Seattle every few years - we know this - yet its appearance continues to be a surprise, catching us unprepared and essentially shutting us down for a few days while we await the thaw. And of course, any time there is a major windstorm; there is always the threat of trees falling and raising havoc with our homes, roadways, power distribution and causing major injuries and even death.

We love and take pride in our trees in Western Washington, ("The Evergreen State") so surely we are not going to cut them down to protect the infrastructure. We love our panoramic views so surely we are not going to over-regulate building on steep slopes. We love our picturesque and pristine rivers and salmon runs so surely we won't try to control them to protect our infrastructure and restrict building homes near them. And of course the snow and ice. It's so pretty and adds such a rare dimension to our landscape that we will tolerate our short-lived snow days, close the schools, watch the children build snowmen and stay at home in front of our fireplaces. This is the Seattle we live in and love. Why should we let anyone even try to protect our infrastructure against these endearments and minor inconveniences?

See *President's Column* on page 3

## Bio for January 25th Speaker

**Dr. Kyle M. Rollins** is a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Brigham Young University. He received his BS degree from BYU and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. After working with his father as a geotechnical consultant, he joined the faculty at BYU in 1987 and was promoted to full-professor in 1998. His research has involved geotechnical earthquake engineering, deep foundation behavior and soil improvement techniques.

Dr. Rollins pioneered the use of controlled blasting to evaluate the lateral resistance of piles in liquefied sand under full-scale field conditions. Over the past five years, he has used full-scale testing to evaluate pile group interaction factors under lateral loading and passive pressure mobilization on abutment walls. His work has been recognized by ASCE with the Huber research award and the Wellington prize.



**President's Column** (continued from page 2)

Should ASCE Seattle Section accept this scenario, or should we accept our responsibilities to society and take up the challenge as protectors of the infrastructure? If you are interested in responding to this challenge, there is a venue for action. It is the presently dormant Infrastructure, Transportation and Planning Committee, which is looking desperately for leadership. If you are interested in addressing our weather related infrastructure failures, or any other related topics, please contact me or other Board members. I suspect that evaluating local weather impacts on our infrastructure could prove to be very a challenging and rewarding experience.

At the October National Convention, one presentation I attended that has stuck in my mind is the question, "Is engineering practice a profession or a trade?" I believe this has remained with me because of the first impressions I had when I began working on projects within King County. I have worked in at least 11 other jurisdictions where this question had never come to mind. What I believe is different in King County is the proliferation of local design standards and vigorous and sometimes over-zealous review and approval process of engineering plans and reports.

For example, for design of storm drainage facilities, we have to use the King County Surface Water Design Manual. A county-generated hydrologic and hydraulic computer model is provided. You simply plug in the data from county generated maps and figures and out pop the results specifying system sizings. This is work that can be performed by technicians and yet local jurisdictions require an engineer's seal. What is an engineer attesting to in these Technical Information Reports? By completing such reports have we performed as professionals or tradesmen?

Another observation is that reviewers for local jurisdictions are not necessarily registered Professional Engineers. Consequently, we have the situation where licensed engineers are required to revise engineered plans to accommodate comments by non-engineers prior to receiving approval. During a past review process, I became concerned over the level of the review comments we were receiving. I checked and discovered that even though a reviewer's title may include 'Engineer', they are not necessarily engineers. Being confused, I checked with the Board of Registration and was told that the Board doesn't have jurisdiction over the titles that counties and cities give their staff. Are we a profession or a trade when non-engineers review and approve our plans?

The Section committee that could help address these and other important questions facing our profession is the Professional Practice Committee. If you are interested in helping bringing this to life, please contact any Board member.

Best Wishes to all in 2007.

*Cliff Williams, PE*

Section President

## ASCE Seattle Section Program Schedule

### January

**Date:** January 25, 2006 (Thursday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** Life member certificates; Geotechnical Group Joint Meeting; Evaluation of Innovative Liquefaction Mitigation Strategies

### February

**Date:** February 15, 2006 (Thursday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** How Much Longer 2-D Paper Drawings (Kitsap Branch Joint Meeting)

### March

**Date:** March 14, 2006 (Wednesday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** TBD

### April

**Date:** April 11, 2006 (Wednesday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** TBD (Water Resources Group Joint Meeting)

### May

**Date:** May 9, 2006 (Wednesday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** Order of the Engineer Ceremony; Annual Student Presentations

### June

**Date:** June 13, 2006 (Wednesday)

**Location:** McCormick & Schmick's Harborside, Seattle

**Topic:** Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Awards

# ASCE Seattle Section Executive Board Meeting Minutes For December 13, 2006

## Attendance:

**Board Members:** Jack Bjork, Paul Grant, Garth Merrill, Doug Knapp, Tom Schnetzer, and Cliff Williams

**Other Section Members:** Ken DeBord and Dave Enger

**Visitors:** None

**1. Call to Order:** Section President Cliff Williams called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM at the La Quinta Inn in Tacoma.

## 2. Regular Business

- The November 15, 2006 Executive Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- The Seattle Section's Annual Report was submitted to ASCE National on November 29, 2006.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

- Garth Merrill will check with the Section groups and committees for breakdown of current allocated budgets for discussion in the next board meeting.

## 4. Standing Committees Action Items – Jeanne Justice, Director

The following board action items were identified:

- ASCE National will hold a town hall meeting in February 2007 to discuss the ASCE's proposed creation of a Political Action Committee. The Seattle Section Board will take a position in March 2007.
- The History and Heritage Committee has requested a copy of past Section Annual Reports, monthly newsletters, and other records for archiving. Tom Schnetzer and Garth Merrill will coordinate with Cindy Hirsch.
- The Audit Committee has requested hard-copy Quicken reports and all bank statements from 2003 to the present. Garth Merrill will coordinate with Susan Gardner on needed information.

## 5. Technical Committee Action Items – Eric O'Brien, Director

No board action items were identified. The Technical Committee report will be posted on the Board's E-Room in the near future.

## 6. Branch Action Items – Arthur Fleming, Director

No board action items were identified.

## 7. YMF Action Items – Doug Knapp, YMF Board Rep

The following board action items were identified:

- The YMF requested their partial transfer of 2006-2007 funds from the Section.
- Doug Knapp is to coordinate with YMF to identify a lead to set up and organize the ASCE booth for Engineer's Week.

## 8. Awards, Scholarships, Fellows/Life Members – Randy Sleight, Past Section President

- The Jones Scholarship applications are currently being evaluated.

## 9. Other Business

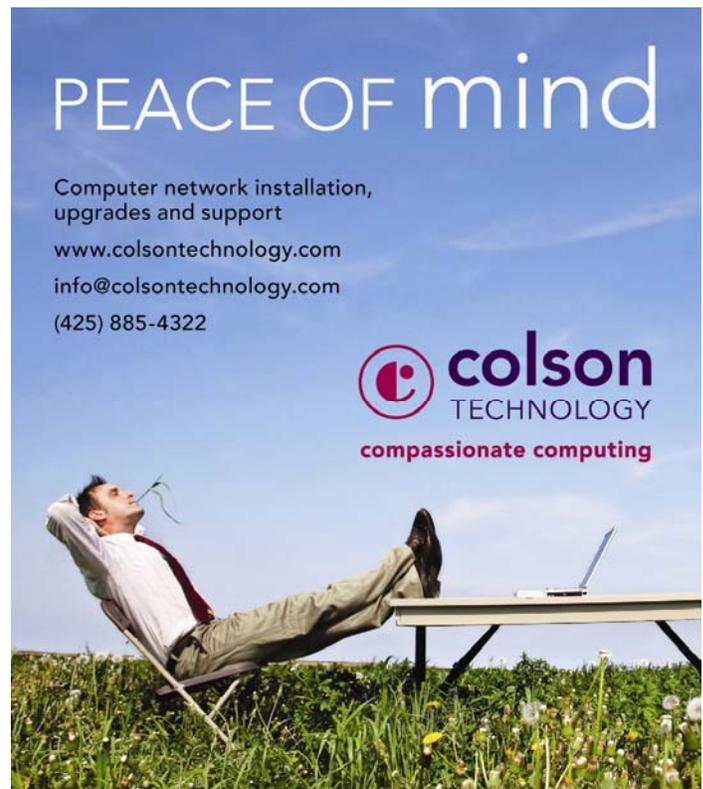
- The Region 8 and 9 Leadership workshop is being held in Seattle. Section and Branch officers are encouraged to attend. A motion was made and unanimously passed allocating payment of the \$150 registration fee for up to six people to attend this workshop.
- The Duties and Procedures Manual is being updated. The Secretary will arrange meetings with each officer to review the position's roles and responsibilities following submittal of the Annual Report.
- The Puget Sound Engineering Council (PSEC) has requested Engineer of the Year nominations. Please contact Paul Grant with any nominations.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

## Next Meeting:

Joint meeting with the Geotechnical Committee on January 25, 2006 at the McCormick and Schmick's in Seattle.

**Minutes taken by:** Tom Schnetzer



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## Let's Start Planning! Rebuilding Together 2007

by Arthur Fleming

For the seventh year in a row, the Seattle Section is going to be a house sponsor. Last year we provided over 300 hours of volunteer labor! Although we're not sure what our house is going to look like and it's still winter, now is the time to start planning how we're going to work with Rebuilding Together Seattle (RTS).

Rebuilding Together helps families in need, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities with home repair projects to keep them safe, warm and able to stay independent in their homes.

Rebuilding Together Day will be **Saturday April 28, 2007**. To help start planning this year's event we need several key volunteers.

**House Captain** - responsible for planning the work, outlining materials, and developing a simple work plan;

**Volunteer Coordinator** - responsible for updating our list of volunteers, matching volunteers to work tasks, getting waivers signed when we start work, and handing out tee shirts, etc.

**Materials Coordinator** - responsible for checking with vendors about donating materials (RTS provides some good contacts to call), and helping procure materials.

We will soon receive a list of potential homes and homeowners to tour. We are fortunate because RTS lets us pick out a project house from homes they have pre-screened. We need one or two volunteers to tour these homes as well. Undoubtedly, we will need our usual assortment of highly skilled volunteers, i.e., people willing and able to: tighten loose screws, clean dirty walls, haul trash, paint a hallway, fix a handrail, haul more trash, trim overgrown bushes, trim paint, run buy materials, drive to the transfer station, help prepare lunch for all the above workers, and whatever else our house captain calls upon us to do.

To volunteer or get more information, please contact Arthur Fleming at 425/329-1152 (office), or [Arthur.Fleming@hartcrowser.com](mailto:Arthur.Fleming@hartcrowser.com). Thank you!



*Our 2006  
Rebuilding  
Together  
Project*

*Before and  
After!*



## Help Needed for Mentor Night at University of Washington

Tuesday, January 23rd at 6pm  
HUB West Ballroom

If you are interested in being a mentor for a night for college students, the Puget Sound Engineering Council (PSEC) needs your help! The purpose of the mentor night activity has been to bring as many practicing engineers together with as many students as possible. We are trying to inspire the students, most of whom are sophomores or juniors, toward a career in engineering. The mentoring has been focused on the one night, with engineers explaining what their experience in the profession has been and answering questions posed by students.



Here's the agenda for this year's event:

- 6pm Welcome & Introductions
- 6:10pm Panel Discussion (4-5 Mentors)
- 6:40pm Introduction of all Mentors (Mentors not participating in panel will need to arrive by 6:30pm)
- 6:50pm Break; Food will be served only during the break!
- 7:10pm Break-Out Sessions (three 20 minute sessions involving all mentors)
- 8:10pm Conclusion & Wrap-Up

The panel discussion will be comprised of 4-5 Mentors from various organizations, disciplines, years of experience, and diversity. The students will be able to ask general questions about engineering to any of all of the panelists. Mentors are welcome to come early to hear the panel. The break-out sessions will focus on one-on-one mentoring of students by mentors in their discipline. Students will rotate between mentors and tables to get a broad overview of answers to their questions.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please sign up online at <http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp.html> by January 18th. For any questions, please contact the Mentor Night Director, Kelly Griswold at [Kelly.Griswold@swe.org](mailto:Kelly.Griswold@swe.org).

## ASCE Reviewing Proposal to Retrofit the Alaskan Way Viaduct

The Seattle Section of ASCE has a committee working on reviewing a proposal to retrofit the Alaskan Way Viaduct. The committee was formed at the request of the WSDOT in response to a proposal to retrofit the viaduct submitted to the State from a group of engineers called the Viaduct Preservation Group headed by Victor Gray. A eleven member committee has been reviewing the proposal since last spring and have published a report with their recommendations.

At the Wednesday December 13 meeting, Ted Bell presented a brief summary of the results of the committee's work.

## 2007 Younger Member Happy Hours

The Younger Member Happy Hours will be at some exciting new locations in 2007. The Seattle Happy Hours will be on the first Tuesday of the month, and the Bellevue Happy Hours will be on the second Tuesday of the month. YMF will provide free appetizers from 5:30 to 7:00 at all Happy Hours, but feel free to come earlier or stay later. For more information contact Josh Shippy [Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com](mailto:Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com) or Robin Lee [RLee@BrwnCald.com](mailto:RLee@BrwnCald.com).

See below for locations and details:

| Date   | City     | Location                                                               | Why              |
|--------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Jan 2  | Seattle  | No Happy Hour                                                          | New Years        |
| Jan 9  | Bellevue | Manzana Rotisserie Grill (Lincoln Square)                              | 14 appetizers    |
| Feb 6  | Seattle  | Terrace Garden (5 <sup>th</sup> floor Red Lion on 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave) | Taco bar         |
| Feb 13 | Bellevue | Tap House (550 106th Ave NE)                                           | 160 beers on tap |
| Mar 6  | Seattle  | Gameworks Sports Arena Bar (1511 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave)                  | Ms. Pacman       |
| Mar 13 | Bellevue | The Parlor (Lincoln Square)                                            | Pool             |
| Apr 3  | Seattle  | Café Metropolitan (1701 E Olive Way)                                   | 25 cent PBRs     |
| Apr 10 | Bellevue | Las Margaritas (437 108th Ave NE)                                      | Tequila!         |

## Should ASCE Increase Its Involvement in Public Policy?

You may recall the debate included in the November newsletter on the option of ASCE forming a Political Action Committee (PAC). We would like to thank the five members that responded to the survey. Four were in favor and one opposed to the formation of a PAC.

During the WRYMC and leadership convention in Bellevue, ASCE National Task Force on Political Involvement will be hosting a Town Hall meeting to facilitate a discussion of the issues. The date is Friday, February 23, 2007 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency. If you are interested in this very important issue, please plan to attend. Please refer to Section web site for the press release and report at [www.seattleasce.org](http://www.seattleasce.org).

Following the Town Hall meeting, the Board will decide how to proceed regarding taking a position on ASCE forming a PAC. Thanks for your interest to date. If you have any comments at this time or after the Town Hall meeting do not hesitate to contact Board members.

## 2006 Outstanding Projects Awards Program

It's time to start thinking about submitting your entries for the Section's 2006 Outstanding Project Awards Program. Applications and rules for the program are available on the Section's website ([www.seattleasce.org](http://www.seattleasce.org)) and the entries are **due on February 14, 2007**.

Depending on the number of entries, awards will be given in the following categories:

- Geotechnical
- Structures
- Ports & Waterways
- Transportation
- Site Development
- Water Resources
- Small Project

The small project category is for any project with a construction cost under \$1,500,000. Projects constructed in 2005 and projects that are almost complete are eligible. Project submittals are welcome from governments, clients and consultants. For more information please contact Paul Grant at [pgrant@pangeoinc.com](mailto:pgrant@pangeoinc.com) or 206-262-0370. Those interested in judging any of the categories are also encouraged to contact Paul.

# Water Resources and Environmental Committee November Brown Bag Seminar

By Perry R. Cole, P.E

Jennifer Knauer, Project Manager with the River and Floodplain Management Unit of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, presented a timely seminar on the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Plan. The weeks preceding the seminar found the County awash in flooding; Jennifer used a video of the Upper and Lower Snoqualmie River flooding to start her presentation. In the week after the presentation the Flood Hazard Plan was in the paper; the County Council is working on approving the Plan.

Jennifer's presentation had four main elements: 1) the County's Floodplain Landscape, 2) Flood Management Risks and Strategies, 3) the 2006 Flood Hazard Plan, and 4) the Formation of a Countywide Flood Control District.

**The County's Floodplain Landscape.** The County covers more than 2134 square miles, includes 39 cities, and encompasses six major river watersheds. These numbers were not very surprising; what was news is that there are over 500 existing levees and revetments along major rivers in the County! The rivers pass through land uses ranging from rural agriculture to highly developed urban areas. Flooding is a regional problem affecting the Lower Green River and Snoqualmie River valley; SR-169 and other transportation corridors, the Tolt Pipeline, and major employers such as Boeing, Paccar, and the Southcenter Mall. There is over seven billion dollars of assessed property value at risk of flooding. Since 1990 King County has been declared a disaster area seven times, with an eighth pending.

**Flood Management Risks and Strategies.** The historical approach to river management has been to control the river with structures such as new channels, dams, and levees. This approach lasted until the 1970's and has resulted in artificially confined waterways, hardened shorelines, environmental damage, and costly maintenance to protect the developments in protected areas. The new river management paradigm is to:

- Change the way society values its rivers and watersheds;
- Manage, Restore rivers to sustain ecologic and environmental benefits;
- Reduce human interventions and avoid encroaching on floodplains;
- Restore floodplain-channel connectivity; and to
- Avoid cumulative effects.

**2006 Flood Hazard Plan.** In acknowledgement of the paradigm change, the 2006 Flood Hazard Plan is intended to:

- Reduce flood risk;
- Manage rivers for multiple public purposes;
- Produce environmental benefits; and
- Be cost effective.

The Flood Hazard Management Plan is comprised of a series of capital improvement projects and flood management programs. The capital improvement projects include levee repair and replacement, raising homes, and acquisition of repetitive loss properties. The flood management programs involve public education, flood warning, mapping, technical studies, and partnerships with state and federal agencies. The cost to implement the plan is between \$179M and \$335M.

## **Formation of a Countywide Flood Control District.**

Funding for the plan is anticipated to come from the formation of a Countywide Flood Control District. This District would replace the small number of existing flood control districts and would have taxing authority. The District would collect between \$0.05 and \$0.10 per \$1000 of assessed value. More information, and the full Plan and appendices, is available at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/flood/fhmp/index.htm>.

There were 24 members in attendance at the meeting which was hosted by HDR, in Bellevue. There will be a short Holiday break so no meeting in December. We will resume our monthly seminars in January with a presentation by Mr. Dennis Fields speaking on the Cascade Regional Water Supply System. The meeting will be on Thursday, the 19th, from noon to 1:00 at the HDR offices in Bellevue.

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## Section and Branch Leadership Workshop

Hyatt Regency Bellevue, February 23-25, 2007

In conjunction with the Western Regional Younger Members Conference (WRYMC) being held in Bellevue in February, ASCE National is holding a workshop for those in leadership at the Section and branch levels. National has confirmed as hosts, the Seattle Section can sponsor as many members as we wish. This is a very beneficial program if you are interested in leadership and would like to learn more. The Section Board has approved payment of registration fees for at least 6 Section members. If you are interested in attending, ignore the deadline given and complete the application form and forward to me immediately at [cliffwiliams@earthlink.net](mailto:cliffwiliams@earthlink.net) so we can get you registered.

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**Anchor Environmental** seeks a FT **ENGINEER** in its Seattle, WA corporate office. The engineer will have 0 to 5 years experience in waterfront related design. Potential candidates should have a M.S. degree in geotechnical, coastal, environmental, civil, hydraulic, or related engineering field.

Responsibilities include:

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- engineering analysis
- report preparation
- client interaction
- construction document preparation, and
- construction oversight.

Registered PE (or EIT), understanding and experience with contaminated sediments, river, and estuary restoration, dredging and disposal projects, seismic assessment, CAD, as well as a familiarity with aquatic-based regulations and permits is a plus. Strong written and verbal communications skills a must.

Anchor Environmental is an environmental science and engineering consulting firm. We offer an excellent benefits package including employer-sponsored health care, 401(k) with match, and Incentive Pay Program.

Qualified applicants please email your resume and salary requirements to [careers@anchorenv.com](mailto:careers@anchorenv.com) with *Seattle Engineer* in the subject heading.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

### January 9, 5:30 – 7pm

#### YMF Happy Hour

Location: Manzana Rotisserie Grill (Bellevue)  
Contacts: Josh Shippy, [Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com](mailto:Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com)  
or Robin Lee, [RLee@BrownCald.com](mailto:RLee@BrownCald.com)

### January 17, Noon

#### Planning Committee Meeting

Location: Condon Johnson in Tukwila  
Deadline: Noon, January 16th  
Contact: Sean Caraway, [seanc@cornerstonegeotechnical.com](mailto:seanc@cornerstonegeotechnical.com)

### January 19, Noon – 1pm

#### Water Resources & Environmental Committee Meeting

Location: HDR offices in Bellevue  
Topic: Cascade Regional Water Supply System –  
presented by Mr. Dennis Fields  
Contact: Perry Cole, [cole@eesconsulting.com](mailto:cole@eesconsulting.com)

### January 23, 6pm

#### PSEC Mentor Night

Location: UW HUB West Ballroom  
Deadline: January 18th  
<http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp.html>  
Contact: Kelly Griswold, [Kelly.Griswold@swe.org](mailto:Kelly.Griswold@swe.org)

### January 31, 5:30pm

#### Ports & Harbors Committee Meeting

Location: Siam on Lake Union (1880 Fairview Ave. E,  
Seattle)  
Topic: Forecasting Tsunami Impact – Challenges and Solu-  
tions. Presented by Vasily Titov, Assoc. Director of the  
Tsunami Inundation Mapping Efforts at the NOAA Pacific  
Marine Environmental Laboratory  
Contact: Susan Tonkin, (206) 622-0222 or  
[tonkin@moffattnichol.com](mailto:tonkin@moffattnichol.com)

### February 6, 5:30 – 7pm

#### YMF Happy Hour

Location: Red Lion Terrace Garden, 5th Floor (Seattle)  
Contacts: Josh Shippy, [Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com](mailto:Joshua.Shippy@hdrinc.com)  
or Robin Lee, [RLee@BrownCald.com](mailto:RLee@BrownCald.com)

## TIME VALUE

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AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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