



March 2018

## LOS ANGELES BASIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

*March 22 (Thursday) – 11:30 AM*

**Eldon Gath**

**President, Earth Consultants International**

### **ACTIVE FAULTING AND BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY INTO GEO-ETHICS**

#### **Abstract**

This talk is oriented toward the ethics of hazard disclosure, using the case of an “Active Fault Map” released by a public agency. The map showed multiple active faults extending through the Beverly Hills High School property, as well as the locations of numerous high rise buildings in the Century City area of western Los Angeles. The High School immediately undertook a comprehensive fault hazard investigation, the methodology and findings of which are detailed in this presentation.

How this release of information to the public was handled, and the on-going consequences of it, will comprise the core of the talk. But when it is shown that no “active fault” was actually observed while making the map, and that none has yet been found in the flurry of geological investigations triggered by the map’s release, is when the real ethical questions start, especially now that the California Geological Survey has Alquist-Priolo zoned one of these fault traces as “sufficiently active and well defined” despite that it has never been seen.

#### **Speaker’s Biography**

Eldon Gath is a consulting engineering geologist with over 30 years of experience in the identification, investigation, and remediation of geologic hazards. He has particular experience with evaluation of active faults for construction site planning, development of seismic safety programs

and policies, and efforts to modernize California’s Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.

He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Technology, obtaining a BS degree in Geology in 1978. He says he’s been in graduate school ever since, including the MS program at Cal State LA (1982-1990), PhD program at UC Riverside (1993-1996), and PhD program at UC Irvine (1998-2008). Despite getting close, he has never completed the PhD degree due to his busy consulting responsibilities, professional organization involvement, and travel schedules (or conflicted priorities, if you ask his advisors).

Eldon is currently President of Earth Consultants International, a geological consulting firm that he co-founded in 1997 after 12 years of working for Leighton Consulting in southern California. He has considerable international experience, including field projects in Turkey, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Papua New Guinea, as well as involvement in many other projects.

He is a frequent invited speaker to local southern California colleges, and has given over 100 presentations before professional, academic, and public groups since his first professional presentation about the Whittier fault in 1987. He has published dozens of papers on a wide range of geological and professional practice topics, several of which have received awards.

***Join us for Eldon’s  
informative presentation!***

## Meeting Time, Place, Cost, and Reservations

### When:

**Thursday, March 22, 2018**

### Meeting Agenda

Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM  
Announcements: 11:45 AM to 12:00 PM  
Guest Speaker: 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM  
Questions/Close: 12:45 PM to 1:00 PM

### Place:

**The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center** located at 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA (562-426-0555). Take Lakewood Boulevard south from the San Diego Freeway (I-405), turn west onto Willow Street, and turn right onto Grand Avenue at the sign for the Center. Park for free in the multi-level garage structure.

### Cost:

Lunch and Speaker: \$25.00 *with reservations*  
\$30.00 *without reservations*  
Retired: \$20.00  
Student: \$5.00

### PAYMENTS IN CASH OR CHECK ONLY

*(FYI: raising the luncheon pricing is under consideration)*

### Meeting Reservations:

We encourage you to make your reservations using the LABGS web site, at [www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org)

Otherwise, call Maia Davis at (530) 559-1404, or e-mail [maiac.davis@gmail.com](mailto:maiac.davis@gmail.com).

Reservations must be made by: **10:00 AM Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup>** to receive the discount price noted above.

**As always, walk-ins are welcome.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*The annual PSAAPG Convention is in Bakersfield, CA on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018!*

Register now: <https://www.psaapg2018.org/>

Please let a LABGS Board member know if you have a pertinent announcement.