



Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Announcing our **January 2019 Meeting**



50 Years of Protecting the Public: The California Professional Geologist License

Laurie Racca, P.G.

California Board for Professional
Engineers, Land Surveyors and
Geologists

MEETING DETAILS

Restaurant

Howden/Spice Monkey
Restaurant
1628 Webster St.
Oakland, CA
[Map](#)

Date and Time

TUESDAY, January 8, 2019

6:00 pm—Social Hour and Sign-in
7:00 pm—Dinner
7:45 pm—Presentations

Cost: \$45 Members & Spouses, \$55 Non-Members, \$20 Students

Reservations: Spaces are limited, RSVP in advance!
Please fill out the [online form](#) by **12 PM, MONDAY January 7, 2019.**

We highly recommend that you take BART. The restaurant is a short 3 block walk from the 19th Street BART Station (exit from the 18th Street side).

BART Directions: Exit the 19th Street Station from the 18th Street side, walk south on Broadway until you reach 17th Street, turn left on 17th Street and walk two blocks to Webster Street. The restaurant is on the corner of 17th Street and Webster.

Driving/Parking Directions: Print turn-by-turn directions through [Google Maps](#). Street parking in Oakland is free after 6pm. A small parking lot is available alongside the restaurant.

*Please RSVP in advance. Walk-ins are welcome, but not guaranteed. No shows will be charged.

Thank you for your RSVP! See you on **Tuesday, January 8, 2019!**

50 Years of Protecting the Public: The California Professional Geologist License
Racca, Laurie, California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists,
laurie.racca@dca.ca.gov

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists

January 8, 2019

On August 1, 1968, Governor Ronald Reagan signed Assembly Bill 600 into law, creating the State Board of Registration for Geologists, and regulating the geologic profession in California. The legislation was driven by consumer demand for services to address geologic hazards, especially landslides in the southern part of the State. Unqualified persons performing questionable geologic work combined with a patchwork of local licensing requirements eventually resulted in the passage of The Geologist Act.

The State of California has licensed geologists for 50-years. Yet even in California, where both geologic riches and geologic hazards affect the daily lives of the general public, licensure of geologists and geophysicists is often misunderstood. Consumers are confused by the variety and imprecise use of credentialing terms and a lack of understanding of the geoscience profession. Geologists employed in multidisciplinary fields often succumb to the erroneous perception that everything they do is geology. Additionally, because licensure confers certain benefits, some geologists incorrectly believe that the licensing board is bound to represent their interests.

Licensing protects public safety, property, and the environment by regulating the geologic profession and promoting standards for competence and integrity. In exchange for a license, a Professional Geologist must comply with the laws and regulations or risk monetary fines, probationary conditions, license revocation or possible criminal prosecution. This includes abiding by the code of professional conduct, and adherence to the professional standards of practice that are expected of a licensee.

Please join us for a presentation focused on why licensing is important, the evolution and current status of licensing laws and regulations (including an update of current BPELSG activities), a review of key concepts and the most common questions regarding professional licensure, and the importance of mentoring young professionals.

Speaker Bio:



Laurie Racca, PG, is a licensed Professional Geologist with 25+ years of experience specializing in complex environmental site investigations and leading multidisciplinary teams. Her experience includes working in private environmental and geotechnical consulting, providing regulatory agency oversight large military and civilian environmental cleanups for the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and investigating fraud, waste and abuse as part of the Office of Enforcement at the State Water Resources Control Board. She was appointed as the Senior Registrar for Geologists and Geophysicists by the

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG) in June 2015. She also serves as the Examination Committee Chair for the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®).