

## SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGISTS



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**SDAG  
Announcements**

## SDAG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

6:00 pm - Social Hour | 7:00 pm - Dinner | 8:00 pm – Program

### LOCATION:

[Marina Village - Catalina Room](#)

1936 Quivira Way  
San Diego, CA 92109

### SPEAKER:

**Ali Fattah, PE**

### TOPIC:

**"Updates to the San Diego Municipal Code requirements  
for Geotechnical Reports – Outreach"**

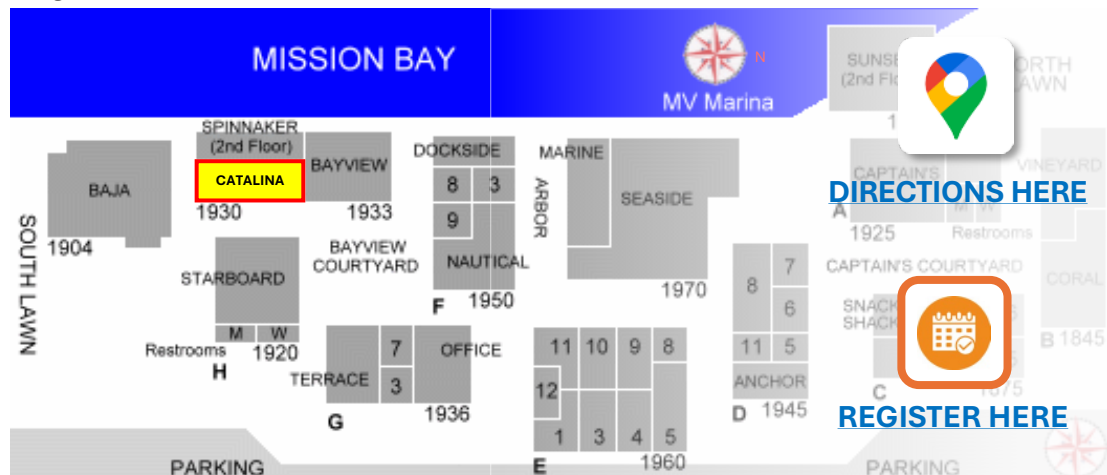
**DINNER:** Buffet includes Grilled Tri Tip, Chicken Cordon Blue,  
and vegetarian options

**COST:** Member \$55.00 | Non-Member \$65.00 | Student \$25.00

### RESERVATIONS:

Make & Pay your reservation online through the SDAG website,  
before **6PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Please note, all meeting reservations require online pre-payment due to venue costs, venue contracts, and loss of money due to no shows. Refunds cannot be processed after the registration deadline.*





# Meet Our | Speaker & Topic



## ALI FATTAH, PE

Ali Fattah graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and is a California registered professional engineer in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Master's in Business Administration awarded by the University of San Diego and is certified by International Code Council as a Building Plans Examiner.

Ali started his career with the City of San Diego in 1984 with the Building Inspection Department, predecessor to today's DSD and has performed reviews for a variety of major projects. He also has taken a lead role on the review and inspections for temporary structures that are associated with Special Events. Ali was promoted in 2000 to Structural Engineer Senior and worked as the Research Engineer performing various Code Development and Code adoption roles on the behalf of the Department at the local, State and national level. This activity included appointments by the State and International Code Council to serve on various code writing committees as well as City Council presentations, including supporting roles to the Land Development Code Updates.

Ali in his current role as Assistant Deputy Director supervises the structural review group of 40 professional engineers and supervises staff engineers that perform reviews for code modifications and alternate methods and materials.

As Research Engineer, Ali also reviewed hundreds of applications for code deviations from adopted building standards including Code Modifications and Applications for the Use of Alternate Methods and Materials and serves as the Secretary to the Board of Building Appeals and Advisors.

Ali successfully led the Department's effort to for the City of San Diego to be Classified by the Insurance Service Office, and the #2 ranking will have the potential to allow insurance rate reductions for our community due to the qualifications and effectiveness of the Division of Building Construction Safety (DBCS). He has also been integral part of DBCS continuing training efforts for staff including the triennial code update cycle.

In his spare time, Ali enjoys traveling, walking, and enjoying our great beaches and taking out his surfboards. He also spends time with family and friends.

### ABSTRACT:

#### **"Updates to the San Diego Municipal Code requirements for Geotechnical Reports – Outreach"**

On a triennial basis, the City of San Diego adopts the latest editions of the California Fire, Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Residential, Green Building Standards Code and the Existing Building Code. The California Wildland Urban Interface Code was recently published and will be adopted by the Fire Rescue Department.

This is done in coordination with the State of California's adoption of these codes. This procedure provides an additional opportunity to modify local regulations and maintain local and statewide consistency. The proposed local amendments were developed by staff from the Development Services Department (DSD) after a thorough review of the State mandated codes, as well as the model codes that were used as the basis for development of the State code.

The purpose of the presentation is outreach to stakeholders that will be impacted due to proposed revisions to the local amendments to Chapter 18 of the California Building Code. More specifically exceptions to requirements that a geotechnical investigation be

undertaken, which will be included in a geotechnical investigation report, will be realigned with current development trends and recent updates to State laws.

New exceptions for new projects, projects proposing a change of occupancy, projects proposing additions and projects proposing certain alterations will include modified exceptions based on the following reasons.

1. The exceptions are informed by requirements implemented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety in a similar major jurisdiction with similar hazards.
2. Recent updates to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act include new project valuation exceptions.
3. The regulations were last revised since initial adoption as local amendments to the 1982 UBC.

DSD's goal is to obtain input and support for the proposed code changes which will be included in a Report to City Council during continued processing culminating with City Council approval in late February.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Hello SDAG Members—Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.**

I am honored and excited to serve as your President in 2026. Please join me in congratulating our new officers: **Sofia Tovar (Treasurer)** and **Luke Johnson (Secretary)**, along with **Jasmine Peach**, who returns this year as Vice President. At our next meeting, be sure to introduce yourself to this year's leadership team.

A big thank you to **Tom Demere** for once again hosting us and for his captivating presentation on the 150-year history of The Nat. We had a fantastic turnout. Thanks as well to all the volunteers who helped with setup, and to our 2025 officers—**Heather Reynolds, Jasmine Peach, and Xiomara Rosenblatt**—for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Their behind-the-scenes efforts make our high-quality meetings and field trips possible.

One of the highlights of our December meeting was awarding scholarships to three outstanding students:

- **Jennifer Morton**, MS candidate at SDSU, received the **Shannon O'Dunn Scholarship** in the amount of **\$4,000**.
- **Hannah Lissner**, MS candidate at USD, received a **\$2,000 SDAG Scholarship**.
- **Cici Jobe**, a USD undergraduate, received a **\$1,000 SDAG Scholarship**.

We look forward to hearing from these students when they present at the **April 15th meeting**.

It's also time to **renew your SDAG membership**. If you haven't already, please consider becoming a sponsor—sponsorship includes your annual membership and provides critical support for our programs and funds our scholarships.

Looking ahead, our January speaker is **Ali Fattah** with the City of San Diego. Ali will discuss proposed revisions to local amendments to Chapter 18 of the California Building Code, including updates to exemptions from geotechnical investigation requirements. These changes reflect current development trends and recent updates to state law. **For those working in geotechnical fields, this is a must-attend meeting.**

I look forward to seeing you at the **January 21st meeting**—be sure to mark your calendar and register in advance via PayPal.

Finally, if you have an interesting topic or would like to present in 2026, please reach out to me at **mike@sandiegogeologicalsociety.org**. We still have several open speaking slots and would love to hear from you.

**Cheers,**  
**Mike Palmer**  
 2026 SDAG President





# 2026 Upcoming Meetings

DATE	SPEAKERS & TOPICS
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Norrie Robbins Speaking on "From Precambrian Iron Formation to Terraforming Mars—the JIMES Expedition to Santoria"
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Josh Goodwin with BPELSG speaking on "Understanding Geology Licensure in California: PG, CEG, CHg, and PGp; How to apply, serve as a reference, and avoid common violations."
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Student Research Presentations by Scholarship Recipients
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Join meeting with South Coast Geological Society
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	We Danskin, USGS retired speaking on "Geology and Water Resources of the San Deigo – Tijuana Area"
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Joint meeting with AEG Inland Empire Section
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Holiday Meeting at San Diego History Museum with Tom Demere as Speaker



**Earthquake Engineering  
Research Institute**

Dedicated to increasing earthquake resilience

San Diego Chapter Webinar:  
**Site Characterization Using VS30  
Per the ASCE 7-22**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Pacific Time

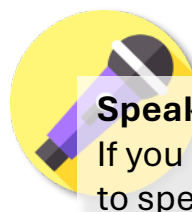
**Speakers:**  
**Jonathan Stewart and Brady Cox**

[\[LINK TO REGISTRATION\]](#)

## 2026 SDAG MEMBERSHIP

Renew or become a new SDAG Member  
2026 Member Dues are Due if you have  
not already done so.

[On-line Payment \(\\$30 Member; \\$10  
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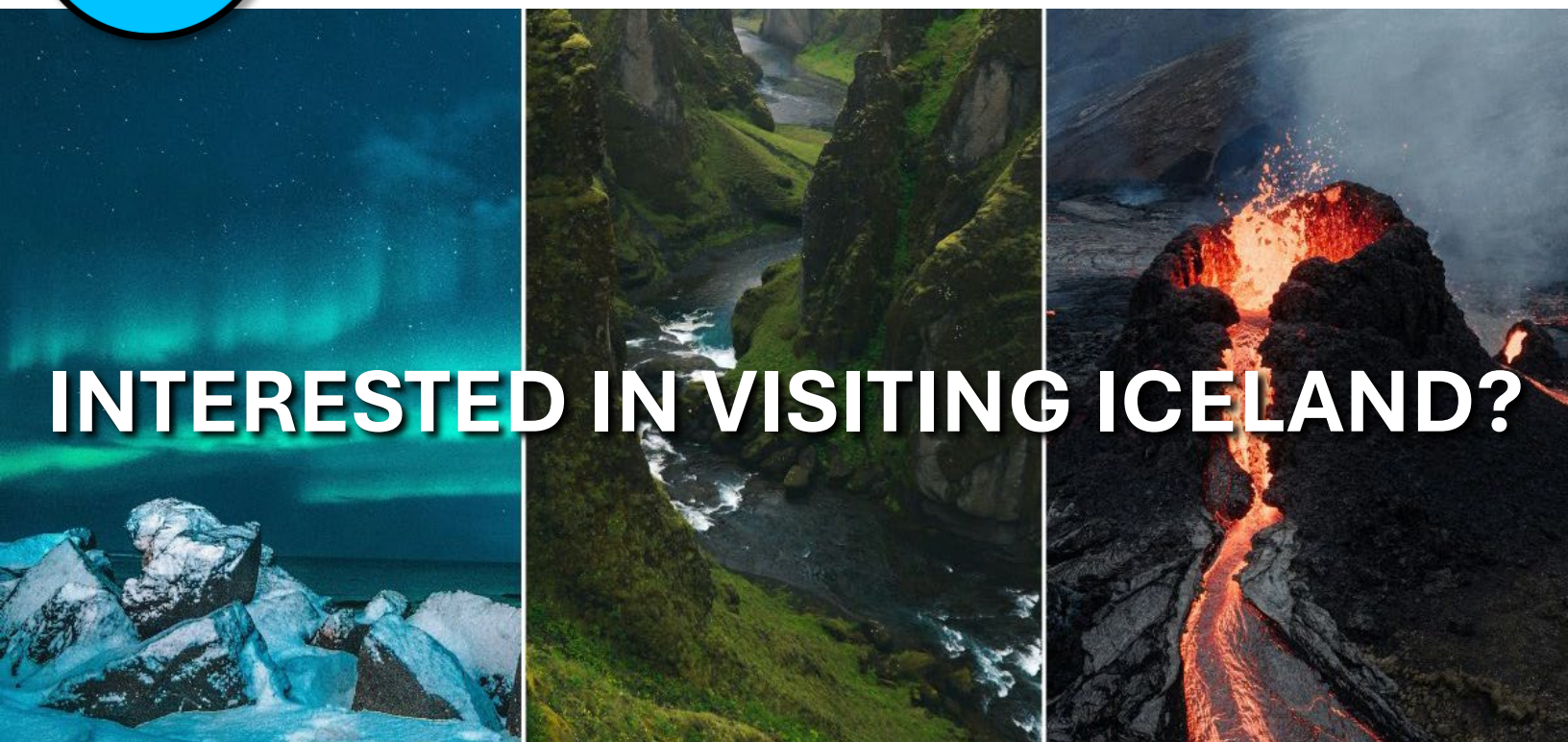
## Speakers For 2026 Meetings

If you or someone you know would like  
to speak at an upcoming meeting  
contact one of our officers!





# GEOTOURS | 2026 ICELAND TRIP



## INTERESTED IN VISITING ICELAND?



**GEOTOURS**  
EXPLORE THE WORLD

Please join Mesa College geology professor, Don Barrie, along with Matt Ebner, retired geography professor and owner/operator of Geotours, LLC, for a 10-day, geologically themed Iceland trip.

This trip is similar to the trip Don and Matt led for SDAG in 2023. All are welcome, geologists and non-geologists alike. Over 10 days, we'll circumnavigate the island by bus, stopping along the way for many activities.

### MESA COLLEGE ICELAND - 2026



**2026 ICELAND TRIP DETAILS**  
**[CLICK HERE]**

For trip related inquiries contact

**Don Barrie**

[dbarriegeo@gmail.com](mailto:dbarriegeo@gmail.com)

**Matt Ebner**

[mattebner@geotours.us](mailto:mattebner@geotours.us)





# SAVE THE DATE

## PACIFIC SECTION SEPM FIELD TRIP

Join the Pacific Section SEPM for their field trip on

# MARCH 28-29, 2026

Trip leader is Pat Abbott with co-leaders including Ron Kies and Bill Bartling. This trip touches all the bases – world class geologic sites along famous beaches

Examine all phases of a SUBMARINE FAN in beach cliff exposures of Upper Cretaceous (Campanian) strata in La Jolla and Pacific Beach, California. We will “wade through” Cretaceous 1) tidal channel deposits, 2) see dramatic deepening from 1m to 1km deep water, then take close-up looks at 3) basin plain, 4) outer submarine fan, 5) mid-fan. Added bonus of Eocene and Pliocene deposits at Tourmaline Beach.

## Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>



## Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>



Walk below 100m high cliffs along Torrey Pines Beach in La Jolla. Examine Eocene lagoonal and tidal flat deposits that are cut by the north wall of an Eocene SUBMARINE CANYON. Continue walking south and see the lateral coarsening of sediment infill as a prograding alluvial fan delivered ever-coarser sediments into a widening submarine canyon. Added bonus of Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum strata.



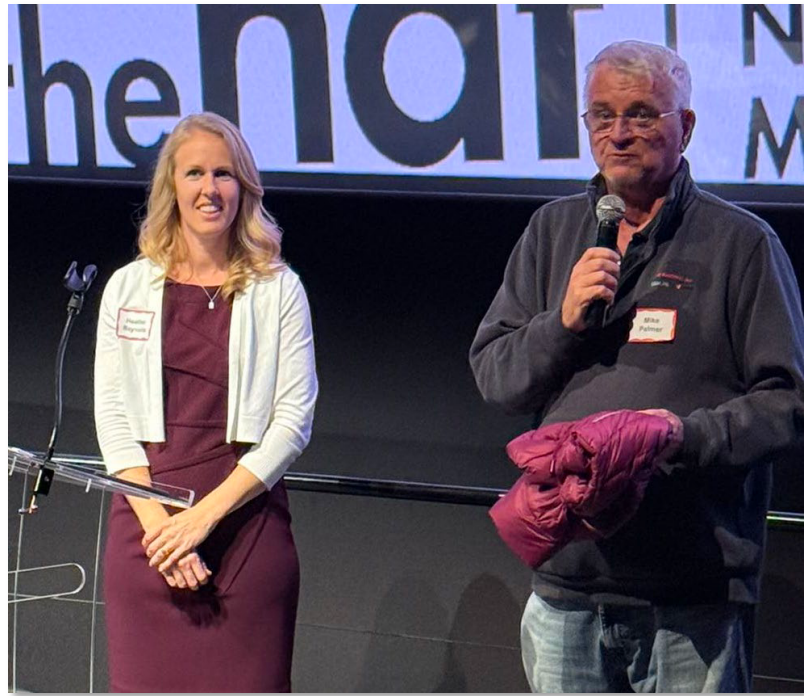


# SDAG | December Meeting Recap

*thank you*

And just like that, another year of SDAG meetings has come and gone. Thank you to all of our members and speakers who joined us throughout the past year. It has truly been a great and memorable experience.

This year's holiday meeting went off without a hitch, and we all enjoyed Tom Demere's traditional paleontological talk while welcoming our new 2026 SDAG officers. We look forward to a new year filled with engaging speakers, exciting meetings, and many new memories.





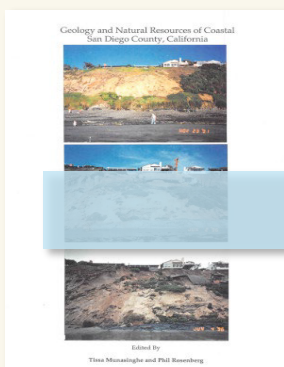


# SDAG | Publications

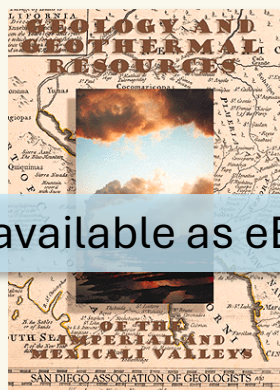
*The [SDAG publication page](#) includes links to in stock books we sell thru Sunbelt Publications, out of stock books we sell thru Google Play Books, and out of stock books that we provide free as scanned copies to download.*

## FIELD TRIP GUIDES & RESEARCH REPORTS

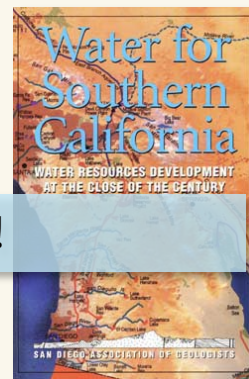
Now available as eBooks!



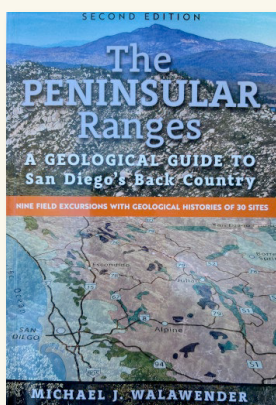
**Geology And Natural Resources Of Coastal San Diego County, CA (1996)**



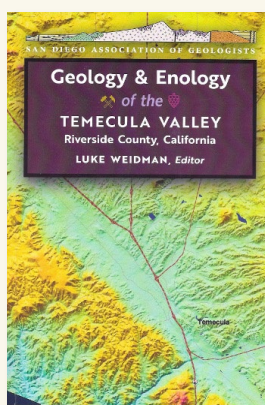
**Geology And Geothermal Resources Of The Imperial And Mexicali Valleys (1998)**



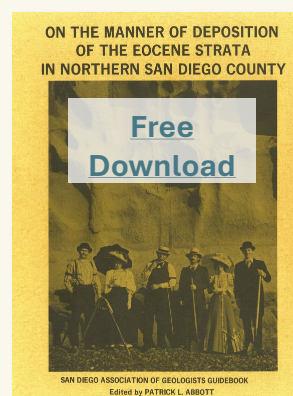
**WATER FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Water Resources Development (1999)**



**The Peninsular Ranges: A Geological Guide to San Diego's Back Country 2nd Edition**



**Geology & Enology of the Temecula Valley Riverside County, California 2nd Edition**



**On the Manner of Deposition of the Eocene Strata in Northern San Diego**

## FREE GUIDES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

- [1972 Otay Mesa](#)
- [1977 SW San Diego](#)
- [1978 Coronado Islands, BC](#)
- [1979 San Diego Region](#)
- [1987 Julian Gold](#)
- [1981 Geologic Investigations of the San Diego Coastal Plain](#)
- [1982 Geologic Studies in San Diego](#)
- [1985 Eocene in San Diego](#)
- [1989 Fault Features: La Jolla - Ensenada](#)

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