

THE COUNCIL MODEL: CCGO AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

**By Jim Jacobs, RG, CHG
CCGO President, 2001-2002**

The California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO) formed five years ago to speak on behalf of the geoscience professions in the legislative process. CCGO is an advocate for the profession in the public interest. The group now has over a dozen organizational members and dozens of business members and individual donors. During the past several years, CCGO has enjoyed great success in developing and enlarging a wide-ranging network of influential contacts within the State Capital. CCGO has been approached by the Deputy Appointments Secretary for the California Governor to make recommendations on geologists for appointments for various state boards. CCGO assisted in the successful renewal of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG) during the sunset review process a few years ago. CCGO has conducted three annual Sacramento Drive-In legislative days, meeting with a variety of legislators and policy makers. Last year, CCGO produced the first annual review of the BGG, and distributed the results of the evaluation to CCGO members as well as the BGG and policy makers. CCGO has maintained a web site listing our member organizations and business members, as well as geologic community calendar, legislative news, geologic links and job bank. A CCGO geologist in the classroom program was developed and posted on the CCGO web site (www.ccco.org). CCGO had two fundraising events this year at both ends of the state. For the second year in a row, CCGO awarded two AIPG Student Geology Awards at the California State Science Fair.

CCGO is poised to expand its role in the legislative, regulatory, and educational affairs of California. In the next year, CCGO will advance programs, request funding and legislation that recognize the state's diverse geologic conditions, advocate knowledgeable use of resources, and work to reduce the impact of geologic hazards. CCGO's work is far from over, and our success ultimately depends on the support of our membership.

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