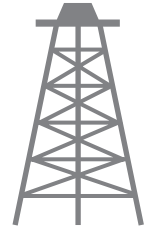




# Pacific Petroleum Geology



NEWSLETTER

Pacific Section • American Association of Petroleum Geologists

January and February 2026

# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

### Bakersfield, April 12-17, 2026 Meeting Program

- > Field Trip and Short Courses
- > Preliminary Technical Sessions
- > Panel Discussion

*See Inside for  
Program Descriptions*

**More Info:**

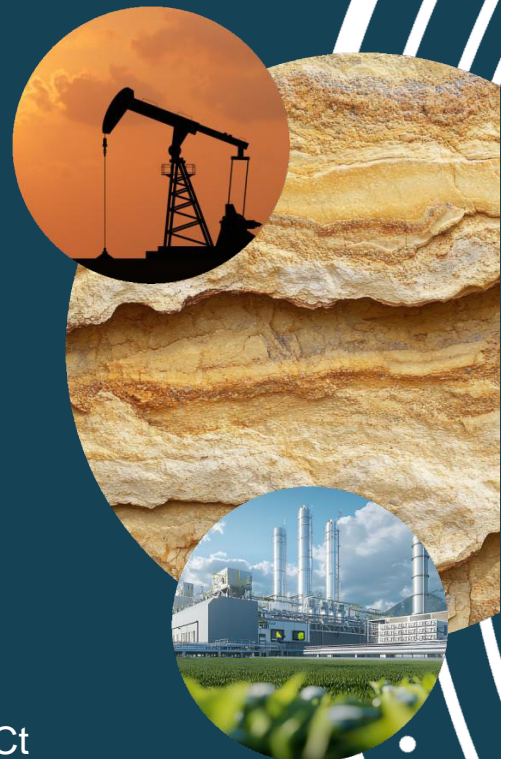
[www.psaapg.org](http://www.psaapg.org)  
[psaapg@gmail.com](mailto:psaapg@gmail.com)

**Double Tree Hotel**

3100 Camino Del Rio Ct  
Bakersfield, CA



San Joaquin Valley Section



<b>2025-2025 Officers</b>		<b>Contents</b>	
President	Dan Steward president@psaapg.org daniel@ironhorseenergy.com	<b>3</b>	<b>President's Letter</b> Dan Steward
President-Elect	VACANT president-elect@psaapg.org	<b>6</b>	<b>2026 Pacific Section AAPG and SPE Western Region Joint Meeting:</b>
Secretary	Kenton Crabtree secretary@psaapg.org	<b>6</b>	<b>Short Courses and Field Trip</b>
Treasurer	Simmie Chehal simarjitchehal@gmail.com treasurer@psaapg.org	<b>14</b>	<b>Technical Sessions</b>
Treasurer-Elect	Lisa Alpert 310-351-6977 lisaalp4@gmail.com treasurer@psaapg.org	<b>25</b>	<b>Panel Discussion: Policy, State of Play, and Outlook</b>
Past President	Amy Spaziani amy.spaziani@gmail.com	<b>26</b>	<b>Member Society News</b>
Editor-in-Chief	Tony Reid 661-303-7817 tonyr0209@gmail.com editor@psaapg.org	<hr/> <p><b>Editor's Comments:</b> In case you want more convention activities, immediately following the Pacific Section AAPG &amp; SPE Western Region meeting is the annual meeting of the Petroleum History Institute in Bakersfield. Also held at the Double Tree Inn, the meeting starts with a reception on Thursday evening April 16 and technical presentations on Friday, April 17. On Saturday April 18, Dan Steward and I will lead a field trip to visit the historic sites on the west side of Kern County. We will make stops in the McKittrick area, Fellows, Midway Sunset and Ten Section, and have lunch at the West Kern Oil Museum in Taft. For more information visit the PHI web site at <a href="http://petroleumhistory.org">petroleumhistory.org</a>.</p> <hr/>	
<b>Staff</b>			
Webmasters	Mike Clark 661-378-8134 rocksniffer@aol.com		
	Kenton Crabtree secretary@psaapg.org		
Membership Chair	Simmie Chehal 661-332-0369 simarjitchehal@gmail.com		

Submit an Article to the  
Pacific Petroleum Newsletter!

- CONTACT THE EDITOR at [editor@PSAAPG.org](mailto:editor@PSAAPG.org)
- Images (graphics, photos, and scans) must be at least 300 dpi resolution. Text should be at least 600 dpi.
- Scanned photos, illustrations (line art) or logos should preferably be submitted as a .tif, .gif, or .bmp; .jpeg

Hello Pacific Section!

We are “Reimagining the Subsurface Energy Resources for a Prosperous Tomorrow” and we have much to discuss!

First, our Organizing Committee for the April 12-17th Joint Meeting of the Pacific Section AAPG and the Western Region of the Society of Petroleum Engineers has produced an excellent technical program through the constant attention and care from a dedicated group of volunteers – namely, the Technical Co-Chairs represented by our own Past President and Convention Technical Co-Chair Amy Spaziani and SPE's Technical Co-Chair Bill Milliken. Kari Hochstatter, President of the San Joaquin Geological



Society, was instrumental in helping Amy review earth science abstracts and assist in forming the sessions and helping with the recruitment of Session Chairs. How many Sessions? 15! Our SPE colleagues' combined efforts have helped greatly in terms of bringing in quality and volume for the technical sessions – be sure to check out the Joint Meeting Program in this newsletter starting on page 15. Compelling short courses are on offer: carbon capture, utilization, and storage; GIS; subsurface risk and uncertainty, reservoir simulation: and California's oil industry legislative statutes, regulations, and applications. We will also have a field trip focused on the structure of the southern and west side of the San Joaquin Basin. Again, take a look at the Program and then register! Tell your friends and neighbors and students.

Note there is a major milestone hiding in the edifying detail above: this will be our first in-person Pacific Section meeting in 7 years! Thus, our 98th Annual Section Meeting is a reality due to the combined efforts of Amy, Bill, Kari, Dayanand Saini, Simmie Chehal, Tom Hampton, Becca Schemp, Will Stevenson, Maia Davis, and Timea Mezei, meeting on most Friday mornings since October. We are very grateful to our donors, exhibitors, and the greater network that has kicked in to help us out. I would use up the remainder of the newsletter space in describing their work in detail – please thank them when you have the opportunity.

Second – you saw this coming: Volunteerism. Note the above report which glows in my opinion. Do you want to be involved? Do you know someone who should be involved? The Pacific Section President-Elect position is available and frankly needs candidates who can run the place beginning this fall. Some of the Pacific Section positions have had repeat candidates out of necessity – a circumstance common in our local Geological Societies. Since 1924 there has been a group of +/- 500 volunteers who raised their hands and faithfully served in this geological realm we all love so much. The Pacific Section doesn't exist without

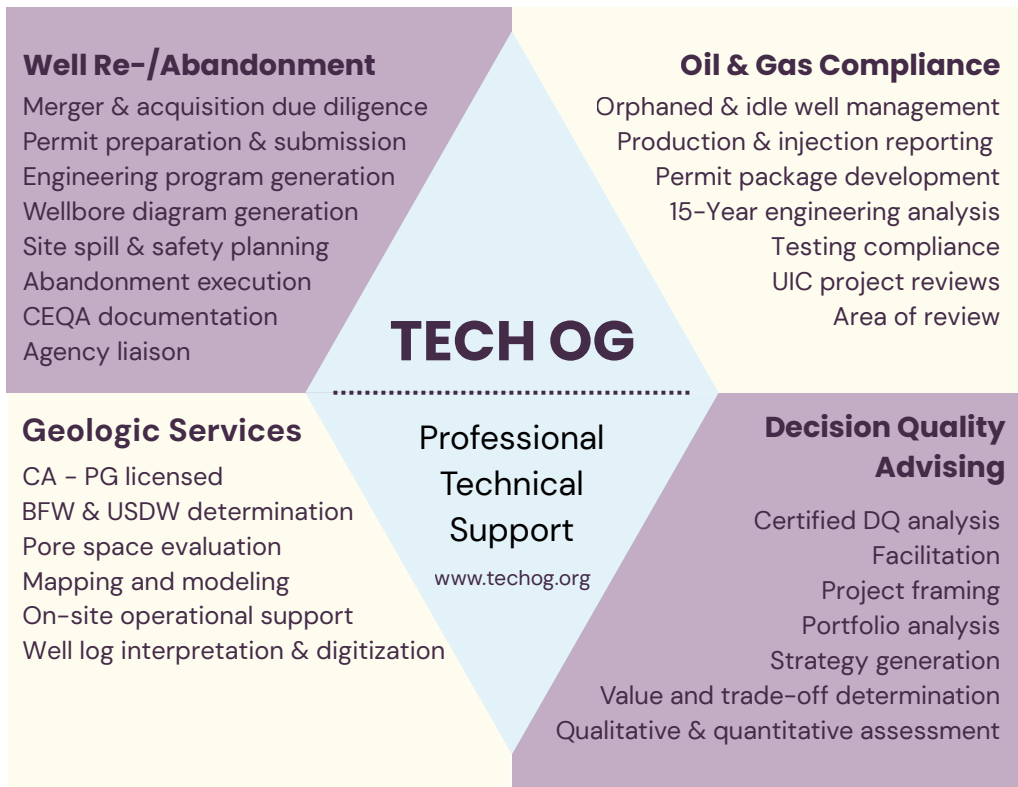
people volunteering from its composite Geological Societies: Alaska, Coast, Los Angeles, Northern California, and San Joaquin. Throughout the history of our Society there have been core groups who delivered for the greater membership again and again. You know who they are and I’m very thankful and proud to be associated with them today, and to know who served in times past, who literally had their hand in creating the excellent Society that we enjoy today. If you’ve read this far, the chances are very high that you’re either an alumni of that group or you want to be! And guess what – we need people who want to be part of this greater-than-yourself project! Let us know, we want to hear from you.

Third – AAPG’s Webinars and their weekly digest of energy, finance, and policy news article entitled “Well Read”, authored by Editor Shangyou Nie. Shangyou hosted a webinar entitled “The Future of Exploration” which was extremely compelling. From 80 countries there were 1,100 virtual attendees. The two speakers were Aatisha Mahajan from information clearing house RystadEnergy and BP’s VP of Exploration, Bryan Ritchie. The bottom line: we are down on discovered volumes on a global basis, 5.4 billion barrels of oil-equivalent gas discovered in 2025 as compared to 14.6 billion BOE discovered in 2019. World oil demand is +/- 103 million barrels per day and is forecast to increase. Are we limiting the future of energy supply with under-investment or are we out of ideas? It is certainly related to the former and I’ll have a difficult time believing the latter.

In summary – register for the Joint Meeting, thank a volunteer, become a volunteer and experience the joy of serving and giving back, subscribe to Well Read and note AAPG’s Webinar resource.

See you in April at the DoubleTree Inn!

Dan



# Advertise in the PSAAPG Newsletter

The Pacific Section- AAPG is revamping the advertisements included in the newsletter. This includes:

- New lower rates
- New submission method
- New multiple avenues of advertising

Members	Single Issue	Year (6 issues)
Full Page	\$100	\$250
Half Page	\$50	\$125
Business Card	\$30	\$75

The PSAAPG will have a new form for you to submit your advertisement and payment. Link to form will be posted on PSAAPG Website and emailed to members and friends of PSAAPG soon.

What can you submit?

Market your business whether it be for geologic consulting, field trips, educational training/ courses.

Where will your advertisement be placed?

PSAAPG Newsletter (single issue and year-round package)

PSAAPG Website (year-round package only)

PSAAPG LinkedIn page (single issue and year-round package)



# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

### Short Courses and Field Trip:

#### Sunday- April 12, 2026

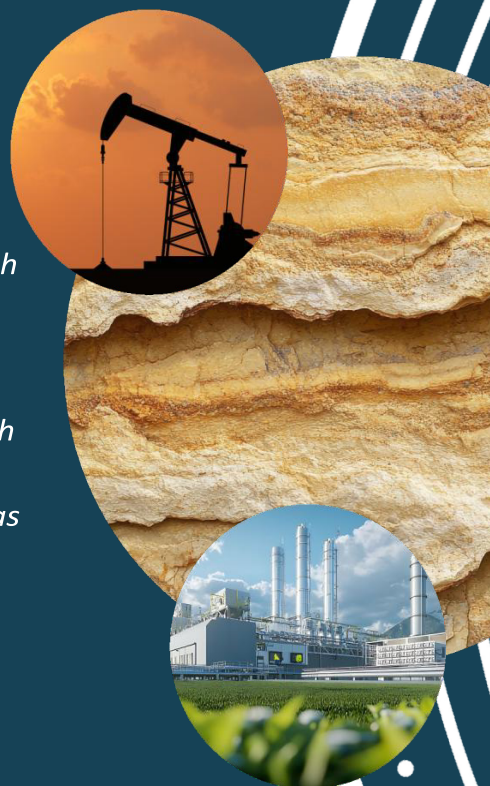
- Short Course- *Spotfire Fundamentals & Advanced Authoring Training*
- Short Course- *Fundamentals of Geological Storage- Based Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)*
- Field Trip- *The San Joaquin Basin Oil Fields, West and South Sides*

#### Monday- April 13, 2026

- Short Course- *Quantifying Subsurface Uncertainty and Risk Strategies*
- Short Course- *Spatial Science Fundamentals for Oil and Gas Professionals*
- Short Course- *Reservoir Pattern Surveillance using Streamlines*

#### Friday – April 17, 2026

- Short Course- *California Oil Industry Legislative Statutes, Regulations, & Applications*



**Double Tree Hotel**

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Bakersfield, CA

**More Details:**

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San Joaquin Valley Section

# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

### Short Course - Spotfire Fundamentals & Advanced Authoring Training

*Participants will learn how to import data into Spotfire Analyst to visualize and detect hidden trends. The course will include the development and consumption of visualizations like the Bar Chart, Line Chart, Combination Chart, Scatter Plot, and Map Chart. They will also learn about automation features using Action Controls (Buttons, Links, and Images), Bookmarks, and Document Properties to solicit user input or pass values to parameters in calculations or to the visualizations' configurable properties.*

*We will learn about Predictive & Statistical Analytics using built-in features such as Data Relationships and K-Means Clustering, and briefly discuss Regression & Classification Modeling. We will also review how to code in Python, IronPython, or R for Exploration Data Analysis, Data Transformation, and to automate certain tasks and capabilities not available in out-of-the-box Spotfire Analyst.*

#### Instructor: Shakeel Muhajir

Shakeel Muhajir has more than 33 years of professional experience across the full software development lifecycle, solution architecture, and project management, following different methodologies and business & technical leadership. For the last 16 years, he has been engaged in Data Science, Business Analytics, and Visualization using tools such as Spotfire, Tableau, and Sigma Computing with Python across industries such as Oil & Gas, Financial, and Manufacturing.

**April 12, 2026**  
**10am – 3 pm**  
3100 Camino Del Rio Ct  
Bakersfield, CA

**More Details:**  
[www.psaapg.org](http://www.psaapg.org)  
[psaapg@gmail.com](mailto:psaapg@gmail.com)

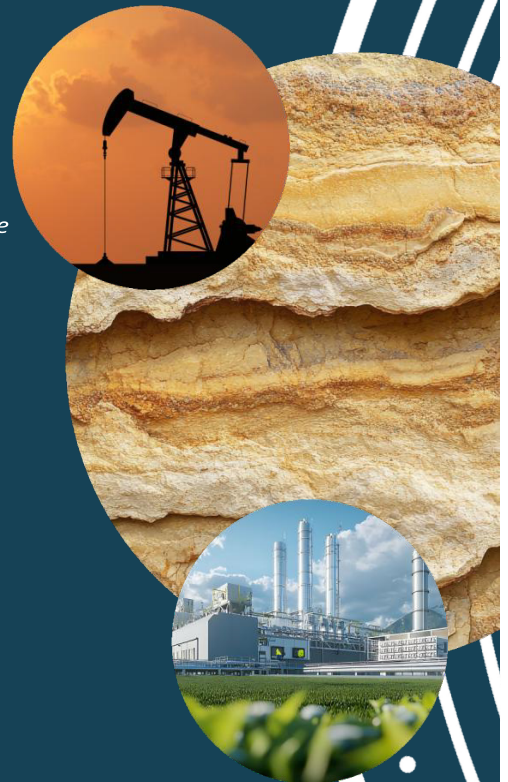


San Joaquin Valley Section

# 2026 Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

## Short Course - Fundamentals of Geologic Storage-Based Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)

*This short course presents the fundamental scientific and engineering principles of subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> injection and geologic storage within the framework of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS). It covers the capture of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and its injection into depleted oil and gas reservoirs and deep saline formations for enhanced oil, gas, and water recovery, as well as long-term geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage. The course emphasizes the application of petroleum industry expertise in subsurface characterization, drilling, reservoir engineering, and multiphase and reservoir-scale flow behavior to the design and implementation of technically sound and commercially viable CCUS projects. Key project elements are discussed, including business drivers, risk assessment, monitoring and verification concepts, regulatory and permitting considerations, representative field case studies, technical and non-technical challenges, and future deployment pathways. Designed as an introductory professional short course, this offering is intended for petroleum engineers, geoscientists, early-career professionals, researchers, and graduate students seeking practical exposure to geologic CO<sub>2</sub> storage (GCS)-based CCUS projects. It is also relevant for regulators, policymakers, and other stakeholders requiring a technically grounded overview of CCUS concepts and applications.*



### Instructor: Dr. Dayanand Saini

Dr. Dayanand Saini is a petroleum engineer, academic, researcher, inventor, and entrepreneur with over twenty years of professional and academic experience. He earned his Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and is a tenured Full Professor of Physics and Engineering at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). He also serves as Director of Technology Innovation and Commercialization at CSUB, where he oversees intellectual property development, patenting, licensing, and industry partnerships.

**April 12, 2026**  
**8 am – 4 pm**  
3100 Camino Del Rio Ct  
Bakersfield, CA

**More Details:**  
[www.psaapg.org](http://www.psaapg.org)  
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Re-imagining the  
Subsurface Energy  
Resources for a  
Prosperous Tomorrow

Field Trip  
12  
APRIL  
2026

# San Joaquin Basin Oil Fields, West and South Sides

## Instructors:

Thom Davis, CA PG #4171 at Thomas L Davis  
Geologist, PhD UCSB

Yannick Wirtz, Geologist at Earth Science  
Consultants, MS CSULB

Greg Gordon, Geologist at CRC, PhD Mines

Geoff Gallant, Geologist at Thomas L Davis PhD  
Geologist, MS USC.

## Registration Open

Field trip will focus on the basic petroleum geology of the fields: structure, stratigraphy, reservoirs, and production. Plus, exploration possibilities within the fields and outside the fields along the west and south sides of the San Joaquin basin.

## Double Tree Hotel

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Bakersfield, CA

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

Visit [www.psaapg.org](http://www.psaapg.org) for More Details



San Joaquin Valley Section

# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

### Short Course - Quantifying Subsurface Uncertainty and Risk Strategies

*This course provides the strategies, tactics, and tools needed to effectively assess and value subsurface projects for petroleum extraction and carbon storage. The premise is that sound estimating of key geoscience, engineering, and economic parameters is essential for maximizing profitability. Probabilistic techniques and a staged approach are emphasized to quantify the range of possible outcomes and make good decisions about which projects are worthy of capital investment.*

*The course is divided into four parts:*

- 1. Work Processes and Deliverables: A summary of the workflows and work products critical for characterizing your project*
- 2. Probability, Distributions, and Correlations: How to use statistics as a language for communicating uncertainty*
- 3. Reducing Uncertainty through Aggregation: How aggregation and its derivative products can help you quantify and manage the uncertainty associated with your project*
- 4. Decision Stage Assessment  
Application of a stage gate process to incrementally expose capital and make good forward decisions.*

#### Instructor: Creties Jenkins, P.E. P.G

Creties Jenkins (P.E., P.G.) has over 40 years of industry experience having worked for Tenneco, ARCO, and DeGolyer & MacNaughton in multiple roles before joining Rose Subsurface Assessment in 2013. He specializes in reservoir characterization and has conducted integrated studies, peer reviews, resource assessments and risk analyses for 75+ companies around the world. He has also conducted 100+ industry courses and workshops over the past decade focused on the profitable exploration, appraisal, and development of petroleum and carbon storage reservoirs. Creties has served as a technical editor, distinguished lecturer, and distinguished author for SPE and is a recipient of AAPG's Distinguished Service Award. He holds a BSc in Geological Engineering and a MSc in Geology from the South Dakota School of Mines.

**April 13, 2026**  
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San Joaquin Valley Section

# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE

## Western Regional Joint Meeting

### Short Course - Spatial Science Fundamentals for Oil and Gas Professionals

*This 1-day (6-hour) short course introduces oil and gas professionals to practical ArcGIS Pro workflows. Participants will build core proficiency in navigating ArcGIS Pro, working with coordinate systems, managing and organizing data, performing foundational spatial analysis, and producing clear, defensible map deliverables. Exercises use real-world California public regulatory datasets (e.g., wells, fields, administrative boundaries, and related compliance layers), with an emphasis on hands-on techniques commonly used for permitting support, compliance mapping, operational planning, and technical communication.*

#### Instructor: Cole Heap, P.G.

Cole Heap, P.G., brings over a decade of expertise in the energy sector, specializing in geologic interpretation, well development, and earth modeling. As a licensed Professional Geologist in California and Wyoming, he collaborates with regulatory agencies, IT professionals, and consulting firms to achieve what often seems like the impossible. Additionally, he serves as adjunct faculty at multiple colleges throughout California, instructing courses in geology, geography, and GIS. With a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Geology, as well as a Master's in Geographic Information Science and Technology, Cole's dedication to continuous learning and knowledge sharing enriches both industry projects and educational endeavors.

**April 13, 2026**  
**9 am – 4 pm**

3100 Camino Del Rio Ct  
Bakersfield, CA

#### More Details:

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San Joaquin Valley Section

# 2026 Pacific Section AAPG & SPE Western Regional Joint Meeting

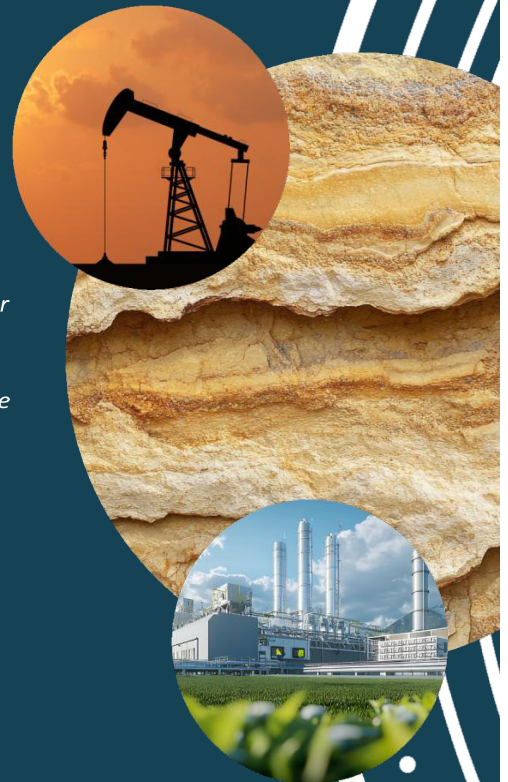
## Short Course - Reservoir Pattern Surveillance using Streamlines

*Streamline-based (SL) flow simulation has traditionally been viewed as a modeling approach that is complementary to other flow simulation methods. However, streamlines are also ideally suited to the much more common application of reservoir pattern surveillance of mature floods. Because the streamline paths themselves yield well drainage regions and well-pair allocation factors, engineers can easily reduce complex production data down to the reservoir pattern level. Streamline based patterns then highlight areas of fluid cycling vs efficient use of injected fluids, or longer term metrics such as remaining oil in place (ROIP) from material balance. Furthermore, knowing well pair connections and pattern efficiencies also provides the basis of flood optimization via updated well rate targets. The elegance of a streamline-based surveillance model is that it accounts for historical flow rates, well geometry, and any level of field geology, meaning it is not subject to an engineer's "best guess" of implied patterns. These models can be quick to build and easy to run, yet are surprisingly robust when compared with more detailed history match flow simulation models. In fact, given the ease with which streamline-based surveillance models can be constructed, any large mature water or miscible flood should have a streamline-based surveillance model, as another way to interpret the production/injection data.*

*Purpose of course: We outline the theory of streamline-based surveillance. How to build a streamline-based surveillance model in studioSL. How to build a well-rate target workflow of a surveillance model in floodOPT. How to forecast a surveillance model.*

### Instructor: Dr. Marco R. Theile

Dr. Theile is co-founder and president of Streamsim Technologies and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering at Stanford University. He received his PhD from Stanford University in 1994 and his Masters and Bachelors from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989 and 1986 respectively, all in Petroleum Engineering. Dr. Theile is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) since 1985 and a Distinguished Member of SPE since 2012. He is the recipient of the 2012 SPE Lester C. Uren Award, the 2010 SPE "A Peer Apart" Award, the 1996 SPE Cedric K. Ferguson Medal. Dr. Theile's research interests revolve around the use of streamline-based reservoir surveillance and simulation technology to solve outstanding problems associated with managing and optimizing IOR/EOR floods.



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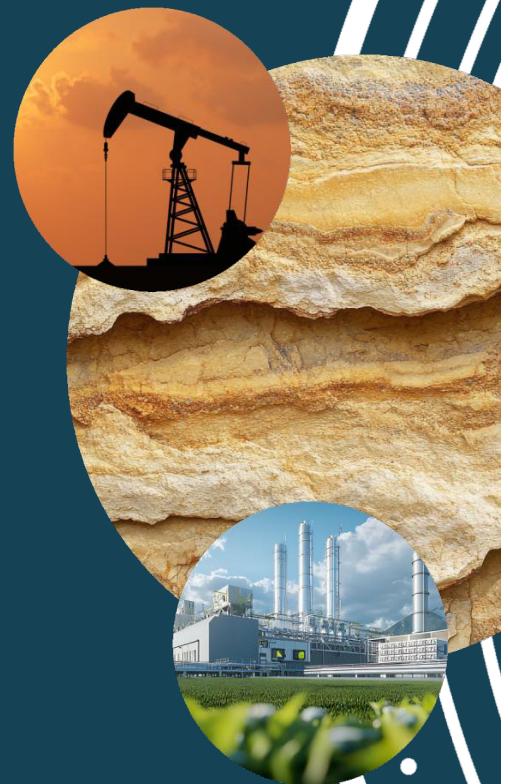
# 2026

## Pacific Section AAPG & SPE

### Western Regional Joint Meeting

#### Short Course - California Oil Industry Legislative Statutes, Regulations & Applications

*This is an application course in California oil & gas legislation and regulations. "California Geologic Energy Management Division Statutes & Regulations – 2025 edition" will be used as a reference in the class. Updates on Idle Well Program regulations will be discussed in the class. General statutes and regulations will be addressed in new-drill, injection-well, abandoned-well, and idle-well programs. We will discuss the application and inspection requirements for well stimulation (SB4). The Underground Injection Control (UIC) and aquifer exemption application processes will be illustrated with general examples. Explain how to determine the O&G Health Protection Zone (SB 1137). With the above illustrations, you will be able to understand the relationships between EPA, the Water Board, CA Air Resources Board (CARB), Kern County, BLM, and CalGEM in the permitting and project review processes.*



#### Instructor: Dr. John Yu

Dr. John Yu is a part-time instructor at the Geological Science Department of CSUB. He worked for DOGGR (currently CalGEM) and the CA State Lands Commission for about 20 years. Dr. Yu was the former trainer for DOGGR on technical applications and an Associate Oil & Gas Engineer for permit approval, UIC, and aquifer exemption reviews. He previously worked in the private sector and taught at West Virginia University.

**April 17, 2026**

**9 am – 3 pm**

9001 Stockdale Hwy  
Bakersfield, CA

**More Details:**

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



**Geomechanics & Fracturing**  
**Day 1, Session 1: Tuesday April 14th, 2026**  
 Session Chairs: Andrei Popa, Kristy Whitaker

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PRO1BHD4YUE	Siradon Prateepsawangwong	Geomechanical Testing of Caprocks from the Southern San Joaquin Basin, California
10:25 AM	PROE5CNSHYQ	Arjun Kohli	Geomechanical Modeling and Induced Seismicity Analysis of a Prospective CO2 Storage Site in the San Joaquin Basin, California
10:50 AM	PROQAQDR8FQ	Andrei Popa	Intelligent Systems Approach for Optimum Fracturing Treatment Design
11:15 AM	PRODU06JB2R	Hanaga Simabrata	Fractures and Drainage Mechanisms: North Midway Sunset Diatomite
ALT	PROQ2IWWPPO	Yusuf Pamukcu	Interplay of Natural Fractures and Hydraulic Fractures in Western U.S. Tight Reservoirs: A Review of Geologic Controls and Stimulation Behavior

**Applications of Artificial Intelligence I**  
**Day 1, Session 2: Tuesday April 14th, 2026**  
 Session Chairs: Don Paul, Iraj Ershaghi

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PRO9W7UH03M	Susan Schrader	A Dynamic Reporting Grid Method for Modeling Low Permeability Flow
10:25 AM	PRO2ME7WU6K	John Mork	Improved Economics for Detecting and Curing Corrosion in Oilfield Operations
10:50 AM	PRO16NRTVZB	Coskun Cetin	AI for Subsurface Hydrogen Leakage Monitoring: A Review of Multi-Sensor Detection, Geomechanical Indicators, and Predictive Analytics
11:15 AM	PRO7DLAE6A9	Zhiyuan Li	Optimization of Enhanced CO2 Storage and Natural Gas Recovery from a Natural Gas Reservoir with an Underlying Confined Aquifer
ALT	PROT8YVHGGO	Alireza Bigdeli	Interplay of Natural Fractures and Hydraulic Fractures in Western U.S. Tight Reservoirs: A Review of Geologic Controls and Stimulation Behavior
ALT	PROT8YVHGGO	Alireza Bigdeli	Artificial Intelligence for Basin-Scale Subsurface Integration: A Review of Multi-Domain Models for Western U.S. Energy Systems
ALT	PROP1YCSBBY	Jorge Saldana	AI-Assisted Production Optimization in Geothermal and Hydrocarbon Fields: A Review of Hybrid Analytics and Multiphysics Forecasting



**California Geology & Approaches**  
**Day 1, Session 3: Tuesday April 14th, 2026**  
 Session Chairs: Rick Behl, Becca Schempp

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PRONZBRP4QW	Rick Behl	Impact of Diagenesis on Heterogeneous Oil Saturation in Submarine Channel and Adjacent organic-rich facies, Monterey Formation, Pt. Fermin, California
10:25 AM	PRO586JUOLO	Ryan Weller	Unique Hardness and Porosity Patterns in Siliceous Rocks of the Monterey Formation, Belridge Oil Field, California
10:50 AM	PROZ13M4Q0F	Richard Espinoza	Thermal Alteration of Organic Rich Miocene Sediments in the Santa Monica Mountains
11:15 AM	PROIGQ0X93Z	Thom Davis	California Dreaming: Revisiting the Oil-Rich San Joaquin Basin, California

**Artificial Intelligence II**  
**Day 1, Session 5: Tuesday April 14th, 2026**  
 Session Chairs: Anthony Kovscek, Chantal Walsh

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PROI5JRVCC4	Hongna Ding	AI-Driven Enhanced Oil Recovery: Optimizing Hydrocarbon Production with Integrated Carbon Mitigation
1:55 PM	PRODES15JB5	Andrei Popa	Automated Optimization of Infill Well Placement via Voronoi Networks and Metaheuristic Search Engines
2:20 PM	PRO3NO90M6Z	Yusuf Falola	Graph-Based Deep Reinforcement Learning for Optimal Field Development Planning
2:45 PM	PROPP4FJ76V	Jack Bashian / Jess Kozman	Imagining Tomorrow's Curated Data Supporting Analytics for Multi-Energy Subsurface Resources
3:45 PM	PROYG49R9XD	Hanaga Simabrata	Reservoir Performance Metric: A Data-Driven Technique to Evaluate Steamflood Performance in Undeveloped Sandstone Reservoirs
4:10 PM	PROQD29QHSS	Emmanuel Gyimah	Numerical Modeling Frameworks for Enhanced Assessment of Darcy-Scale Reactive Transport in CO <sub>2</sub> Storage Systems
4:35 PM	PROCGS2HBK6	Cenk Temizel	AI-Enabled Subsurface Pressure and Stress Prediction: A Review of Data-Driven Geomechanics for Western U.S. Basins
ALT	PRORCCWG0IA	Ying Zhu	AI for Geothermal Drilling Risk Mitigation: A Review of Predictive Analytics, Real-Time Decision Support, and High-Temperature Modeling



## Artificial Intelligence II

Day 1, Session 5: Tuesday April 14th, 2026

Session Chairs: Anthony Kovscek, Chantal Walsh

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PROI5JRVCC4	Hongna Ding	AI-Driven Enhanced Oil Recovery: Optimizing Hydrocarbon Production with Integrated Carbon Mitigation
1:55 PM	PRODES15JB5	Andrei Popa	Automated Optimization of Infill Well Placement via Voronoi Networks and Metaheuristic Search Engines
2:20 PM	PRO3NO90M6Z	Yusuf Falola	Graph-Based Deep Reinforcement Learning for Optimal Field Development Planning
2:45 PM	PROPP4FJ76V	Jack Bashian / Jess Kozman	Imagining Tomorrow's Curated Data Supporting Analytics for Multi-Energy Subsurface Resources
3:45 PM	PROYG49R9XD	Hanaga Simabrata	Reservoir Performance Metric: A Data-Driven Technique to Evaluate Steamflood Performance in Undeveloped Sandstone Reservoirs
4:10 PM	PROQD29QHSS	Emmanuel Gyimah	Numerical Modeling Frameworks for Enhanced Assessment of Darcy-Scale Reactive Transport in CO <sub>2</sub> Storage Systems
4:35 PM	PROCGS2HBK6	Cenk Temizel	AI-Enabled Subsurface Pressure and Stress Prediction: A Review of Data-Driven Geomechanics for Western U.S. Basins
ALT	PRORCCWG0IA	Ying Zhu	AI for Geothermal Drilling Risk Mitigation: A Review of Predictive Analytics, Real-Time Decision Support, and High-Temperature Modeling



## Regional Geology

Day 1, Session 6: Tuesday April 14th, 2026

Session Chairs: Tony Reid, Rob Negrini

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PROI1HGPRHB	Tony Reid	Quaternary Uplift, Erosion and Basin Subsidence, Southern San Joaquin Basin, California: Implications for Petroleum Generation, Migration and Entrapment
1:55 PM	PROC3THVKVW	Gregg H. Blake	Neogene Paleogeographic and Paleobathymetric Controls On Interpreting the Tectonic Evolution of the California Margin
2:20 PM	PROFMU3NDY9	William Bartling	Upper Cretaceous Structural and Depositional Hinge Point – Breakaway Point for Middle Miocene Rotation of the Western Transverse Ranges
2:45 PM	PRO6F474HWY	Emily Fisher	Reinterpretation of the Depositional Environment and Structural Framework of McKittrick Oil Field, California
3:45 PM	PROG5RXBWU8	Jana Bachleda	Integration of Geologic Mapping and Regional Geochemical Drainage Data for Successful Uinta Basin Development Planning
4:10 PM	PROXU8ATFVS	Yannick Wirtz	Three-Dimensional Reconstruction of Namson and Davis' Balanced Cross Sections: A Regional Structural Model of Southern California
4:35 PM	PRO5NQCK4KN	Russell White	Geosteering Lookback of Horizontal Wells at the Mount Poso Oil Field, Kern County, California
ALT	PROCFJTSZA9	Tuhin Biswas	Reconstruction of Northwest San Juan Basin Evolution to Predict CO <sub>2</sub> Migration and Seal Performance in Long-Term CO <sub>2</sub> Retention



## Geothermal II

Day 2, Session 7: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Zhenzhen Wan, John Porter

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PROFBP48JTB	Ganiyat Shodunke	Modeling and Projection for Stress and Deformation for the Tuttle OK Geothermal Project
10:25 AM	PROORN8Z9G3	Steve Cheung	The Opportunities and Challenges of Repurposing Mature Oil and Gas Fields for Geothermal Applications in California
10:50 AM	PROBF107MSR	Marco Thiele	Screening of Geological Models for Low-Enthalpy Geothermal Modeling
11:15 AM	PRO9GEY2CLI	Geoff Gallant	The Imperial Valley Geothermal Area: State of the Well Data and Importance of a Digital Well Database
ALT	PRO39QBAFPS	Alireza Bigdeli	Review of Geothermal Energy Development in the United States: Technology Evolution, Field Experience, and Future Opportunities

## Idle Wells, Abandonment, & Repurposing

Day 2, Session 8: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Jared Paddock, Joe Eller

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PROJVI34DH9	Qianru Qi	Legacy Aspects of Various Energy Resources
10:25 AM	PROYPW0D6WU	Ronald Kies	Early 20th Century Oil and Gas Exploration Wells Drilled in San Diego: Using Old Well Data to Enhance Understanding of the Geology of the Region
10:50 AM	PRO2U9GF0YS	William Bartling	Long Duration Thermal Energy Storage – Repurposing End of Economic Life Oil and Gas Wells
11:15 AM	PRO0WRGDDT4	Paul Harness	Part 2 Description of an Asset Suitable for Geological Thermal Energy Storage
ALT	PROM0ZX2RHU	Behnoosh Salimbrahmi	Screening Criteria for Repurposing Idle Oil and Gas Wells for Nuclear Waste Storage: A New Look



## Drilling & Facilities

Day 2, Session 9: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Tom Walsh, Jalal Torabzadeh

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
10:00 AM	PROI96FNTI2	Morteza Akbari	Wireless Downhole Control, Safety and Monitoring Systems: Validation of Flow Performance and Field Applications
10:25 AM	PROJP5ERXRA	Nicole Abedi	Deficiencies in Standard Plug and Abandonment of Oil and Gas Wells in California
10:50 AM	PROZ5BLNMLD	Justin Jones	Using 3D Printing to Innovate the Hydraulic Performance of PDC Bits
11:15 AM	PRO6LVJUISB	Mehrzad Shoshtari / Zadeh Naseri	Permeability of Borehole Cements

## California Petroleum: Past, Present, & Future

Day 2, Session 10: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Bill Bartling, Joe Eller

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PROAQ64GOQ9	Dayanand Saini	Origin of Petroleum on Earth: A Philosophical Review of Biogenic Evidence and Hybrid-Origin Perspectives
1:55 PM	PROOE042HU1	Iraj Ershaghi	Critical Investment Needs in Oil, Natural Gas, and Decarbonization
2:20 PM	PRO72AI0L6Z	Don Paul	The Future of the California Energy System
2:45 PM	PROSOAPG87H	Iraj Ershaghi	Competency Matrix for Petroleum Engineering Education in the Age of AI
3:45 PM	PROL6KX6LY6	Alan Burzlaff	California Oil Supply Drilling Potential
4:10 PM	PROD97DFE8R	Colin Muir	Summary of 2025 CalGEM Regulatory Activity
4:35 PM	PRO76LPZD1V	John Yu	Analytical Approaches and Case Studies with Field Production Data and Process Data Easily Acquired on Surface to Oil-Field Regulatory Investigation
ALT	PROJAXHSOHS	Qianru Qi	Aspects of Mixing Hydrogen with Natural Gas



**Carbon Capture, Utilization, & Storage**  
**Day 2, Session 11: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Session Chairs: Creties Jenkins, Jared Paddock**

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PROFUUCGF9I	Creties Jenkins	Quantitative Risking of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Projects with Legacy Wells
1:55 PM	PRON3SEJLZ1	Bolivia Vega	VSUL—An Experimental Platform for Demonstrating Geological Carbon Storage Dynamics
2:20 PM	PROSOL8PZ1T	Anthony Hama	Integrated Thm Modeling for Fault Reactivation Risk Assessment During CO <sub>2</sub> Sequestration in the San Juan Basin
2:45 PM	PROVLI368BQ	Razieh Solatpour	Coupling 4D Seismic Images with Dynamic Simulation for Sleipner CCUS History Matching, Area of Review Calculation, and Uncertainty Analysis
3:45 PM	PROOHCYL2CL	Basker Murugappan	Design, Commercial, and Operational Review of 4 Major CCUS Projects 2025, A Reality Check
4:10 PM	PROM9Z6QPO4	T. Yehia, Y. Falola, I. Eloghosa, G. Nair, J. Toms, and D. Meehan	Reduced-Order Modeling of CO <sub>2</sub> Storage in Complex 3D Aquifers Using the E2CO Framework
4:35 PM	PROKSN4DUG0	Syed Farouq-Ali	Failure of CCS and Energy Transition and the Disastrous Effect on Oil Production
ALT	PROIRIZYRVU	Terence O'Sullivan	Cool It: Observations of Gamma-Ray Changes at the Illinois Basin–Decatur Project Reveal a New Method for Visualizing CO <sub>2</sub> Flow Paths
ALT	PROFLQJ2BI8	Afeez Gbadamosi	Polymeric Foam Formulation For Enhanced CO <sub>2</sub> Storage In Fractured Reservoir



**Brownfields & Enhanced Oil Recovery**  
**Day 2, Session 12: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Session Chairs: Cenk Temziel, Suleen FNU**

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
1:30 PM	PRO1TGD0RYU	Wanjun Fu	Resurgence of the San Emidio Nose Oil Field from Kern County, California
1:55 PM	PROSFCEW8X	Marco Thiele	Brown Field Reservoir Management Using Streamline-Based Surveillance
2:20 PM	PRODOKP83NR	Vanessa Williams	Restoring Idle Wells: A Particulate Solution to Mitigate Damaged Zones and Restore Wells for Future Use
2:45 PM	PROVLAUMQNT	Yamin Man	Simulation of EOR Methods for Ugnu Heavy Oil in the S-Pad: Toward a Line of Sight for Replicating J-Pad Success at Milne Point
3:45 PM	PROHE3VEIW5	Asad Syed	Enhanced High-Temperature Foam Performance: Impact of Lauryl Betaine on SDS Foam Stability, Texture, and Interfacial Tension
4:10 PM	PRONH3GR2V1	Donald Hill	Electro-Chemical Enhanced Heavy Oil Recovery
4:35 PM	PROEJTDE67D	Emre Arslan	Advances in Multiphase Flow Modeling for Steam-Assisted and Thermal EOR Processes: A Review of Simulation Methods and Physical Understanding
ALT	PROCHMP2QP6	Cesar Ovalles	Environmentally Benign Technologies for Non-Thermal Heavy Crude Oil and Bitumen Production
ALT	PRO7A82GL18	Hakeem Azhar	Low-Salinity Nanofluid–Polymer Hybrids for Carbonate EOR: Mechanistic and Coreflood Assessment of Silica, SWCNT, and Titanium-Based Systems



## Hydrogen Resources

Day 3, Session 13: Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Allegra Hosford-Scheirer, Jalal Torabzadeh

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
8:00 AM	PROFV470GPI	Allegra Hosford-Scheirer	A High-Level Geologic Hydrogen Prospectivity Analysis for California
8:25 AM	PRO184L2DKL	Christine Ehlig-Economides	How Texas Can Leverage the California Hydrogen Mobility Demonstration
8:50 AM	PROGBHGM7BB	Faruk Civan	Heat Exchange and Gas Leakage Effects on Hydrogen Storage in Subsurface Salt Caverns Determined by a Thermohydraulic Leaky-Tank Model
9:15 AM	PROXVJKL00Y	Mohamed Metwally	Underground Hydrogen Storage: Salt Caverns, Porous Reservoirs, and Network Integration for Seasonal Balancing
10:00 AM	PROCU5ZUOFH	Asad Syed	Experimental Evaluation of Hydrogen Storage in Depleted Heavy-Oil Sandstone Reservoirs
10:25 AM	PRO544NJ3ZN	Iraj Ershaghi	Blue Hydrogen from Low GOR Fields
10:50 AM	PROONDFOXWJ	Chinemerem Okezie	Assessing the Risks of Stimulated Serpentinization of Ultramafic Rocks for Geologic Hydrogen Production
11:15 AM	PROW3Y5SYSL	Md Tauhidur Rahman	Kinetics of Hydrogen Generation from Methane Pyrolysis: Enhanced by Electromagnetic Heating and Natural Catalysts in Reservoir Rocks
ALT	PRO026P0KHH	Afeez Gbadamosi	Artificial Neural Network Prediction of Wettability in Hydrogen–Cushion Gas–Brine/Rock System: Implication for Geological Energy Storage
ALT	PROYI87ZSY1	Ramdhan Wibawa	Closed-Loop Optimization for Efficient Underground Hydrogen Storage in Saline Aquifers



## Stratigraphy, Sedimentology, & Depositional Systems

Day 3, Session 14: Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Gregg Blake, John Porter

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
8:00 AM	PROFLDN8KER	Manuel Paz	Seismic Stratigraphic Framework of the Stevens Sandstones, San Joaquin Basin, California
8:25 AM	PRONE9BB50Y	William Bartling	Pre-Miocene Tectonic Reconstruction of the California Borderland Aided by Upper Cretaceous and Eocene Submarine Fan Stratigraphic Pierce Points, San Diego, California
8:50 AM	PRO34DBS26E	Ronald Kies	Evidence of the Paleocene Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) in San Diego: If not a Golden Spike, then a Silver Spike
9:15 AM	PROAYLBDVTL	Jere Jay	Kettleman Middle Dome's Early Tertiary Uplift History - A Substantially Older Structure Than Its Neighbors
10:00 AM	PRO25X5PERH	Sayeed Abbas	Fine-Scale High Resolution Models for Evaluating Shallow Marine Reservoirs, North Slope of Alaska
10:25 AM	PROCKRO17OU	Gregg H. Blake	Multidisciplinary Approach to Age Revisions of the California Neogene Provincial Stages
10:50 AM	PRO4Y7GR2I7	Bah Dahmane	Quantitative Fracture and Fault Characterization In a Fractured Reservoir Using High-Resolution Quanta Geo Borehole Imaging Case of Bir Allah Field.
11:15 AM	PROPBPH5SU4	Kristy Whitaker	Unlocking Your Inner Rockhound: The Value in Multidisciplinary Outcrop Studies for Increased Communication and Subsurface Field Management
ALT	PROUKL6Q2PN	Bah Dahmane	Salt Tectonic Signatures in Offshore Mauritanian Fields



## Advanced Approaches in the Energy Industry

Day 3, Session 15: Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Session Chairs: Gary Myers, Adhijit Dandekar

TIME	PAPER #	AUTHOR	TITLE
8:00 AM	PROQ2G88619	Robert Czarnota	Comparative Microstructural Analysis and Mineralogical Insights into Peridotites from Montana's Stillwater and Michigan's Yellow Dog Complexes
8:25 AM	PROURVBMQNA	Daniel Hollis	Application of Ambient Noise Tomography Imaging for Resource Exploration
8:50 AM	PROY983M82H	Sara Wu	The Geothermal Source of Mono Hot Springs, Sierra Nevada, California: A Geothermal and Geochemical Investigation
9:15 AM	PROESPJ05DW	Madison Tarpley	Hydrogen-Induced Alteration of Sulfide Minerals in Fine-Grained Sedimentary Rocks
10:00 AM	PROSICJYLDB	Xiaozhen Song	Governing Mechanisms and Flow Regime Characteristics of Oil-Water Two-Phase Flow Under Varying Operating Conditions
10:25 AM	PRO00XR25VM	Chukwuemeka Johnny Nnamah	Investigating the Thermal Properties of Polyamide 6/Oil-Based Mud Filler Nanocomposites
10:50 AM	PROU3MFW618	Iraj Ershaghi	Innovations in Decarbonization in the Oil and Gas Industry
11:15 AM	PROGH057R23	Dias Satbaldy	Important Observations about a Mature Unconventional Reservoir



## ***Policy, State of Play, and Outlook***

### ***A Panel Discussion***

***Chad Hathaway, Edward Ring, Lorelei Oviatt, Shawn Kerns***

***Dan Steward, Convention Co-Chair, Moderator***

**Chad Hathaway** is a conventional energy entrepreneur based in California. Chad has current and previous investments in agriculture and ag optimization, water, minerals, real estate, information technology-managed services, and professional sports. Notably, Chad is the founder and president of Hathaway LLC, an independent oil company with headquarters in Bakersfield, California, and president of the Kern Energy Foundation.

**Edward Ring** is the director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, which he co-founded in 2013 and served as its first president. He is also a senior fellow with the Center for American Greatness, and a regular contributor to the California Globe. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, National Review, City Journal, and other media outlets. Ring's undergraduate degree is in Political Science from UC Davis, and he has an MBA in Finance from USC. Ring is the author of several books, including "Fixing California – Abundance, Pragmatism, Optimism" (2021), "The Abundance Choice – Our Fight for More Water in California" (2022), and "Solutions – Innovative Public Policy for California" (2024).

**Lorelei Oviatt** is the recently retired Director of the Planning and Natural Resources Department of Kern County. Experienced as a strategic navigator of state and federal land use regulation, Lorelei was instrumental in the recent passage of California State Senate Bill 237 which brought significant and needed relief for oil operations across the State and particularly in Kern County. Lorelei has broad experience both public and private sectors in getting large-scale, multi-agency-planned-and-approved projects through the system for an array of end-uses.

**Shawn Kerns** managing partner of advisory services at Cornerstone Engineering in Bakersfield, California. Shawn has a diverse background of leadership experience across multiple aspects of the energy and carbon management industry. Skilled in field operations, development, reservoir engineering, management, business development and training and mentoring, Shawn has over 30 years of both domestic and international oil and gas experience with Occidental Petroleum and California Resources Corporation.

# Member Society News

## ATTENTION PACIFIC SECTION AAPG MEMBERS

- Do you have a talk you would like to give at a Pacific Section Society meeting?
- Most of the Pacific Section Societies are searching for talks to complete their monthly meeting schedules for 2025.
- You are encouraged to contact the Societies and inquire about the suitability of your talk for their audiences.

**Alaska Geological Society**  
www.alaskageology.org

P. O. Box 101288  
Anchorage, AK 99510

Most meetings are hybrids, using Google Meet, and in person at the BP Energy Center. Doors open 11:00 am.

March 10, 2026:  
Speaker: Guy Oliver  
Topic: Modern mudlogging techniques

President:	Monte Mabry	monte.mabry@live.com
President-Elect:	Holly Fair	holly.fair@conocophillips.com
Vice-President:	Dave Buthman	byron7929@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Adam Manzer	adam.manzer@alaska.gov
Treasurer:	Veronica Jones	joneslynnveronica@gmail.com
Past-President:	Ken Helmold	helmold@alaskan.com

**Coast Geological Society**  
coastgeo.org

P. O. Box 3055  
Ventura, CA 93006

The Coast Geological Society has a new web site: [coastgeo.org](http://coastgeo.org).

In-person meetings are the third Tuesday of the month at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003

March 17, 2026:  
Speaker: Rick Behl, PhD  
Topic: Two Volcanic Winters Triggered by twin Yellowstone Supervolcano Eruptions, 631,000 years ago

April 21, 2026:  
Student Awards Ceremony with possible student presentations

May 19, 2026:  
Speaker: Jan Gillespie, PhD  
Topic: Using oilfield data to study groundwater aquifers in California

President:	Bill Dinklage	coastgeologicalsociety@gmail.com
Past-President:	John Williams	jtrockoil@gmail.com
Vice President:	Sabina Thomas	CoastGeologicalVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary:	Nina Minga	CoastGeologicalSecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer:	David Arellano	CoastGeologicalTreasurer@gmail.com

(Continued on next page)

**Los Angeles Basin Geological Society**  
www.labgs.org

Monthly dinner meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday at the Barrel Room of Four Sons Brewing, 18421 Gothard Street, Suite 100, Huntington Beach. Our Attitude Adjustment begins at 6 PM, Talk at 7 PM. See the most recent newsletter on their website for the latest details on upcoming talks and events.

Check the website for information on upcoming meetings

President:	Dan Steward	daniel@ironhorseenergy.com
Vice President & Programs	Rick Behl	richard.behl@csulb.edu
Treasurer:	Daniel Rice	ricedaniel@213@gmail.com
Secretary:	Joseph Landeros	landerosjd@gmail.com
Scholarships:	Karla Tucker	ktkr2@aol.com
Webmaster	Joseph Landeros	landerosjd@gmail.com

**Northern California Geological Society**  
www.ncgeolsoc.org

803 Orion #2  
Hercules, CA 94547-1938

Meetings are at the Orinda Masonic Hall and online using Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Talks are 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm (social half-hour at 6:30 pm)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Speaker: Jeremy Lancaster, State Geologist of California

Topic: Post-fire Geohazard Risk Management in California's Warming Climate

President:	Jim O'Brien	j.obrient @ comcast.net
President-elect:	Tom MacKinnon	
Past President:	Noelle Schoellkopf	NoellePrince @ sbcglobal.net
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Recording Secretary:	John Karachewski	
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Field Trip Coordinator:	Will Schweller	willschweller@yahoo.com

**San Joaquin Geological Society**  
www.sanjoaquingeologicalsociety.org

P. O. Box 1056  
Bakersfield, CA 93302

**DINNER MEETINGS:**

SJGS meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at the American Legion Hall, 2020 H St Bakersfield, CA.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Speaker: Dr. Lisa Alpert

Topic: a topic dealing with CCUS

President:	Kari Hochstatter	khochstatter@gmail.com
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President-Elect:	Brandon Clark	
Vice-President:	Obinna Nzekwe	
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