REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

Fund. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) pp. 74-75 for background information.)

Federal Legislation. In March, the U.S. Senate passed legislation to limit the use of polygraph tests by businesses to screen job applicants or employees. S. 1904 (Kennedy) has been reconciled with a broader House version, H.R. 1212 (Williams), passed last fall. President Reagan had until June 27 to decide whether to veto or sign the polygraph bill, which may not seriously affect polygraph examiners in California. State law already prohibits private employers from requesting polygraph tests “as a condition of employment or condition for continued employment.”

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Board has not held a meeting since October 1987. Its June meeting was cancelled.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND LAND
SURVEYORS

Executive Officer: Darlene Stroup
(916) 920-7466

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors regulates the practice of engineering and land surveying through its administration of the Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors’ Act.

The basic functions of the Board are to conduct examinations, issue certificates and/or licenses and appropriately channel complaints against its licensees. The Board is additionally empowered to suspend or revoke certificates or licenses. On a routine basis, the Board considers the proposed decisions of administrative law judges who hear appeals of applicants who are denied registration and licensees who have had their licenses suspended or revoked for violations.

The Board consists of thirteen members: seven public members, one licensed land surveyor, four registered practice act engineers and one title act engineer. Eleven of the members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms which expire on a staggered basis. One public member is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one by the Senate President pro tempore.

The Board has established seven standing committees dealing with land surveying and the various branches of engineering. These committees, each composed of three Board members, approve or deny applications for examinations and register applicants who pass the examinations. Their actions must have the approval of the entire Board, which is routinely forthcoming.

Professional engineers are now licensed through the three Practice Act categories of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering under section 6730 of the Business and Professions Code, and the Title Act categories of agricultural, chemical, control system, corrosion, fire protection, industrial, manufacturing, metallurgical, nuclear, petroleum, quality, safety, and traffic engineering.

Structural engineering and soil engineering are linked to the civil Practice Act and require an additional examination after qualification as a Practice Act engineer.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Redefining Title Act and Practice Act Categories. At its April 8 meeting, the Board approved a recommendation that the Civil, Electrical, and Land Surveyor Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) be assigned the responsibility to redefine the practices of each of their disciplines. The motion provided that “these assignments be given top priority in 1988-89.”

In addition, at the request of a unanimous Examinations/Qualifications Committee chaired by Orville Paul, the Board considered creating a Mechanical Engineering TAC to update the definition of mechanical engineering. Upon the objection of mechanical engineer Robert E. Young, however, the Committee members withdrew their motion. Mr. Young argued that a ME-TAC would be an unnecessary additional expense. Currently, mechanical engineering is the only Practice Act category without a TAC.

Staff Recruitment. Executive Officer Stroup announced that she hired Scott Ewing as a staff civil engineer and was interviewing applicants for a staff mechanical engineer. The staff engineer vacancies were respectively due to resignation and disability retirement.

LEGISLATION:

AB 981 (Cortese), which incorporates city engineers with city surveyors within the Subdivision Map Act and the Professional Land Surveyors’ Act, was chaptered on May 11 (Chapter 100, Statutes of 1988). (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) p. 75.)

AB 1860 (Waters), which would pro-