



gist should have the same qualifications as other practicing geologists throughout the state, since the State Geologist often speaks, acts, and reports as a representative of the state in matters pertaining to geology hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity, and subsidence. In addition, it is the Board's opinion that geology documents issued by the Division of Mines and Geology must be signed by a registered geologist. The law does not permit a licensed geophysicist to sign the geologic reports, maps, and documents which may be required of the State Geologist. AB 1727 was vetoed by the Governor on September 30.

SB 86 (*Boatwright*) originally called for the abolition of BRGG. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 51.) Following an interim hearing in Palm Springs on December 7, at which public comments on SB 86 and several similar measures were heard, SB 86 was amended into SB 87, which originally called for the abolition of the Board of Landscape Architects (BLA). As amended January 12, SB 87 would have merged the BRGG and the BLA. However, following cancellation of a January 14 hearing before the Senate Business and Professions Committee, Senator Boatwright's office indicated that the Senator will no longer pursue SB 87.

## RECENT MEETINGS:

At its October meeting, the Board discussed an article in the September 1987 issue of *Geotimes*, a magazine distributed nationally to geology professionals by the American Geological Institute in Washington, D.C., encouraging states to provide specialty certification for groundwater geologists. At this time BRGG has no plans to create such a specialty certification. One reason for this position is the concern that specialty certification in groundwater may actually conflict with existing laws and regulations. Additionally, this certification would not include licensed engineers and petroleum engineers, who are exempt from the registration requirements of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act and could therefore continue to practice in the field of groundwater geology without specialty certification. T.L. Wright, chair of BRGG's Professional Practices Committee, was given permission to send a letter to *Geotimes* voicing the Board's concerns.

The Board is participating in a cooperative effort with a committee from the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, focus-

ing on areas of overlap in the boards' respective professions. A working paper currently used by the executive officers of both agencies is being revised to assist the officers in situations in which there is a question as to which class of licensee must attend to a particular task.

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

## BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

*Executive Officer: Manuel Urena*  
(916) 445-9040

The Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind has three primary functions. The Board protects the blind guide dog user by licensing instructors and schools to ensure that they possess certain minimum qualifications. The Board also enforces standards of performance and conduct of these licensees as established by law. Finally, the Board polices unlicensed practice.

There are three guide dog schools in California. These schools train the blind in the use of guide dogs. Each school also trains its own dogs. Each blind person is then matched with a dog using factors such as size and temperament. To provide this specialized service, the schools must have special facilities, which are inspected by the Board members as needed.

The Board consists of seven members, two of whom must be dog users (Business and Professions Code section 7200).

## MAJOR PROJECTS:

*Board Anniversary.* On December 4 in Pasadena, Senator Newton Russell honored Dorothy Walker-Scott, who is credited with aiding in the creation of the Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind. The Board itself was recognized with a joint Senate resolution commemorating its fortieth anniversary.

## RECENT MEETINGS:

At the Board's December 5-6 meeting in Palm Springs, discussion centered on the accessibility of blind persons and their dogs into hospital facilities. While the Board has confirmed a need for guide dogs to be allowed admission when blind persons are visitors to hospitals, it has not taken a similar position regarding dogs of blind patients. In the case of patients' dogs, Board members are concerned about the dogs' presence having a negative impact on hospital

personnel during the hospitalization. As to dogs of blind visitors, an Attorney General spokesperson has stated that a guide dog accompanying a blind visitor should be allowed access to any public area of the hospital.

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

## BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

*Chief: Gordon Damant*  
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The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHF) regulates manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers, upholsterers, retailers, renovators, and sterilizers of furniture and bedding. In addition, the Bureau establishes rules regarding labeling requirements approved by the state Department of Public Health pertaining to furniture and bedding.

To enforce its regulations, the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture.

The chief or any inspector may open, inspect and analyze the contents of any furniture or bedding and may condemn, withhold from sale, seize or destroy any upholstered furniture or bedding or any filling material found to be in violation of Bureau rules and regulations. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend registration for violation of its rules.

The Bureau is assisted by a thirteen-member Advisory Board consisting of seven public members and six industry representatives.

## MAJOR PROJECTS:

*Cigarette Safety Act.* The federal Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 established an interagency committee and a technical study group to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of developing cigarettes and little cigars which would be less likely to ignite upholstered furniture and mattresses. At the request of the technical study group, the Bureau conducted tests for smoldering ignition of chairs by various cigarettes. The results of the tests were presented in three reports submitted to the interagency committee in October.

The tests conducted by the Bureau and other groups led the committee to report to Congress that "it is technically feasible and may be commercially feasible to develop cigarettes that will have a significantly reduced propensity to