



Geotechnical
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GEI Consultants' Hart and Verigin Named to Serve on National Committee on Levee Safety

Committee to develop recommendations for a national levee safety program

SACRAMENTO, California – November 21, 2008 – GEI Consultants, Inc., one of the nation's leading water resources, geotechnical and environmental engineering firms, announced today that its Chief Operating Officer Ray Hart, P.E. and Senior Consultant Steve Verigin, P.E. have been appointed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John Paul Woodley, to serve the National Committee on Levee Safety (NCLS). The purpose of this committee is to develop recommendations for a national levee safety program, including the strategic plan for implementation.



Ray Hart



Steve Verigin

Verigin was recommended by the Association of Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) and recommended to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), while Hart was recommended by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and others familiar with his work with levees across the country.

Levees are one of the most traditional and key elements of many flood control and flood management systems. Typically constructed from earth materials adjacent to natural waterways, levees were not usually as well-designed or constructed as other earthen structures, such as canal embankments and dams. However, levees protect billions of dollars of property and the effects of failure can be disastrous, as New Orleans experienced in 2005. The nation has become aware of both the importance and the risks that the thousands of miles of levees across the country pose. GEI Consultants has devoted a major portion of its resources to the evaluation, remediation, and improvement of the nation's flood control levees, and is involved in all engineering aspects in many of the largest active projects.

Through his role as an external peer review, Hart will oversee quality assurance in his role for the committee. A professional engineer with over 30 years of experience in water resources planning, development, and facilities operations Hart has overseen the development of the 2 mile long Bear River Setback Levee near Marysville, California. He has managed all aspects of the water and power utility operations of the California State Water Project (SWP), and as the State Department of Water Resources SWP Deputy Director, he oversaw the construction of the

East Branch Extension of the California Aqueduct, the final delivery segment of the SWP. Hart managed the state's flood control system and led its successful flood response efforts in 1997 and 1998; including working closely with the Corps to undertake miles of levee seepage and erosion repairs to the Sacramento/San Joaquin Flood Control System. He has a general civil engineering and planning background, having performed technical analyses and inspections on numerous dams, levees and water supply facilities in California. Hart holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering, University of California, Davis.

Verigin will serve as a non-voting committee member on the technical assistance workgroup. He has more than 30 years of experience in nearly all aspects of water resources engineering with an emphasis on design and construction and is a nationally recognized expert and leader in dam safety engineering with extensive project, program and executive management experience. Prior to joining GEI in 2006, Verigin served as the Deputy Director and Acting Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) following 20 years with the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). Verigin's dam experience includes work on Olivenhain, Diamond Valley and Seven Oaks. Verigin holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis and a M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Sacramento. He is a past president of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO).

About GEI Consultants, Inc.

GEI's multi-disciplined team of engineers and scientists deliver geotechnical, environmental, integrated water resources and ecological solutions to diverse clientele nationwide. The firm has provided a broad range of consulting and engineering services on over 25,000 projects in 50 states and 22 countries. For more information, please visit the firm's web site at www.geiconsultants.com.

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