



## A Message from the Chair

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[www.LASPE.org](http://www.LASPE.org)

Dear fellow SPE members,

It is hard to believe it is February and we are more than one month into 2009! The world economy is declining continuously and the US recession is getting deeper. Like many other industries, the oil and gas industry, is facing new challenges, which require readjustment. Globalization and the change in the world order may need some business and cultural changes on the sides of both employees and employers. Business may not be as usual and many things taken for granted, unfortunately, may not be true anymore.



Despite many challenges, there are new opportunities that should be taken advantage of in coping with the current economic crisis. Time is tough but as always, those who survive the tough times will have a bright future. As I discussed in my January message, this is the time for our industry to use technological advances to fully utilize its potentials. Despite the downturn in the economy, investments in research and development is continuing in technologies that will take drilling, completion and production into deeper water offshore and into harsher environments including colder climates. SPE is doing a great job of transferring knowledge and facilitating technology utilization.

On some good news from LASPE, CONGRATULATIONS to three of our members, Candra Janova, Salina Derichsweiler, and AB Gorashi Abdulrahman, who will be recognized and will receive the Orange County Engineering Council Young Engineer Award at the OCEC Awards Banquet to be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the celebration of the Engineer's Week. Details on the ceremony and the awardees' achievements can be found in another section of this issue of the newsletter. The LASPE Technology Forum is continuously attracting many attendees thanks to efforts of our Program Committee Chair, Kate Wallgren, for bringing outstanding speakers to the forum. Please plan on attending and do not miss these very informative talks.

*Continued on next page . . .*

## A Message from the Chair *continues*

*Message from the Chair continues . . .*

If you are interested in a particular topic, please contact Kate at: [Katherine\\_Wallgren@oxy.com](mailto:Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com). As in the past years, this year LASPE is sponsoring many scholarships for students from high school to graduate programs. For details, please visit [www.laspe.org](http://www.laspe.org). Additionally, for the first time SPEI is sponsoring a very generous and attractive STAR Regional Scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in Petroleum Engineering or related fields. This scholarship pays \$5000 for undergraduate and \$10,000 for graduate students renewable up to 4 year. For details please visit [www.spe.org](http://www.spe.org) or contact me at: [torabzad@csulb.edu](mailto:torabzad@csulb.edu). The **2009 SPE Western North America Regional Meeting will be held on March 24-26 in San Jose, California**. The conference focuses on “**New Solutions for Maximizing Recovery and Value**” and offers many excellent technical papers, panel sessions, keynote speakers, and short courses. As part of this meeting a SPE Student Paper Contest will be held on Monday March 23. In this contest, students in petroleum engineering programs from USC, Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of Alaska, Cal Poly SLO, and CSULB will compete at BS, MS and PhD levels. On Monday evening and before the award ceremony, an alumni event is scheduled to bring former and current students, faculty, and staff together. This is the first time this event is scheduled at the Western Regional Meeting. Please plan to attend.

Finally, LA Basin Section has nominated (and is in the process of nominating) candidates for various positions and awards at regional and international levels including the SPE Western North America Regional Director position, 3 WNAAR Technical and Service awards, and several SPE International awards. I hope to report on the success of these nominations in future issues of this newsletter. Until next time, have a successful month.

Sincerely,  
Jalal Torabzadeh  
2008-2009 Chairperson

### **- The Annual SPE Charity Golf Tournament is coming! Save the date! -**

On **May 15th, 2009** the long standing annual SPE Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Los Serranos Country Club on 15656 Yorba Ave in Chino Hills. The committee met last week and decided to lower the cost this year to help make it easier for everyone to continue to support our local SPE chapter in these tough economic times. Fliers with these updated prices will be sent out in February. We will once again be having a pre-tournament BBQ and skills challenge events where you're able to increase your odds during the after dinner raffle.

If you wish to volunteer, send your contact information to Ben Morales at [Benjamin\\_Morales@oxy.com](mailto:Benjamin_Morales@oxy.com).

I look forward to seeing everyone support a great cause again this year,

Mike Filbey  
Tournament Chairman, [Mike\\_Filbey@oxy.com](mailto:Mike_Filbey@oxy.com)

**“An Introduction to Offshore Drilling Operations in Angola, West Africa”**

The next Petroleum Technology Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807. The speaker will be Eric Upchurch with Chevron in Angola, West Africa. Abstract and speaker bio follow.

<b>Location:</b> Long Beach Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue Long Beach, CA 90807	<b>Time:</b> Registration: 11:30 AM Buffet Lunch: 11:30 AM Presentation: 12:00-1:00 PM	<b>Cost:</b> \$20.00 members, Free for students.
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**“An Introduction to Offshore Drilling Operations in Angola, West Africa”  
Eric Upchurch, Chevron, West Africa**

**Abstract**

Over the last several years Chevron has sustained a 10-rig drilling campaign off the coast of northern Angola. The variety of geologic prospects being drilled and the types of rigs being used are significantly diverse for a single oil producing region. Chevron operates in Blocks 0 and 14 off the coast of Angola's Cabinda Province in water depths ranging from 100' to 3000'. This presentation starts with a brief geologic history of the Cabinda oilfields, followed by a discussion of the present rig, well design and completion types necessary to develop the massive hydrocarbon resources present in this region. Also to be discussed are the organizational, geographic and logistical issues that make sustaining this 10-rig drilling program a constant challenge. And, finally, the deployment of future technologies and rig types will be discussed.

**Biography**

Eric Upchurch is a Senior Drilling Superintendent with Chevron in Angola, West Africa. e-mail: eupchurch@chevron.com. He has 24 years experience in drilling, completions and production engineering in the Gulf of Mexico, California, Alaska, Thailand and Angola. He has authored several papers covering the fields of petroleum engineering, mechanical engineering, system dynamics and fluid mechanics and has been granted 2 US patents. He holds a BS in petroleum engineering from the U. of Tulsa, an MS in mechanical engineering from California State U., Long Beach and a PhD in aerospace engineering from the U. of Southern California and is a registered professional engineer in the state of California. He has served on the SPE Editorial Review Committee and has assisted in the planning of several SPE conferences.

Katherine Wallgren, Forum Chairperson, [Katherine\\_Wallgren@oxy.com](mailto:Katherine_Wallgren@oxy.com)

## LA SPE Scholarship Announcement

### **The Los Angeles Basin of the Society of Petroleum Engineers is now accepting applications for Scholarships for the 2009/2010 school year**

Local students who are classified as undergraduates and graduate students at the beginning of the 2009 fall semester attending may be eligible for these scholarships. There are four types of scholarships available through the section:

- **Mei Chang Memorial Scholarship:** \$500 awards are available for high school graduates entering college in the fall of their graduating year or following year. This scholarship is a tribute to Ms. Mei Chang, a Sr. Research Scientist with Chevron. She is remembered for her steady contributions to LASPE and for tutoring science and math high school students. The awards are available to children, grandchildren and siblings of LASPE members or local students sponsored by LASPE members in good standing (subject to board approval).
- **Undergraduate Scholarships:** \$500 scholarships are available for undergraduate college students pursuing petroleum engineering or geology, chemical, civil, mechanical, environmental or related engineering curriculums. The awards are available to active LASPE student members or SPE student members attending southern California colleges or universities.
- **Graduate Scholarships:** \$1,000 scholarships are available for college graduate students pursuing studies or conducting research in energy and petroleum related subjects. The awards are available to active LASPE student members or SPE student members attending southern California colleges or universities.
- **Bruce Davis Memorial Scholarship:** \$1,000 award is available for a USC student pursuing graduate studies in petroleum related fields, chemical engineering and chemistry. Dr. Davis, a 26-year employee of Chevron, considered himself an experimental chemist and wished to encourage students with science backgrounds to pursue a future career in the Petroleum Industry.

In addition to the above scholarships available through the section, the SPE Foundation annually awards the Gus Archie Memorial Scholarship, a four-year, \$6,000 annual grant to the outstanding college freshman pursuing an undergraduate degree in petroleum engineering. If you or your students would like more information on these scholarships, as well as the guidelines and qualifications, please go to: <http://www.laspe.org/scholarship/scholarship.html>

The deadline for the submittal of the application is April 10, 2009. Depending on the number of applicants an interview may be required. The students will be notified of the results after the SPE Board meeting on May 12, 2009. If you have any questions about the scholarships contact:

Jack L. Smith  
SPE Scholarship Chairman c/o California State Lands Commission  
200 Oceangate, 12th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4331  
Tel: (562) 590-5270  
Email: [smithjl@slc.ca.gov](mailto:smithjl@slc.ca.gov)

## LASPE Young Professional Organization Update

Introducing new officers within Young Professional section of LASPE. As developing organization, the YP LASPE expect to perform many activities this year. The addition of these officers will facilitate organization's growth by recruiting more members, holding more events, and attending more activities.

Brief biographies of current YP officers:

### **Candra Janova – Liaison/Chairperson**

[Candra\\_Janova@oxy.com](mailto:Candra_Janova@oxy.com)



Candra Janova is a Petroleum Engineer for THUMS/Occidental Long Beach, Inc. (OXY). He has had almost four years of experience working at this company covering Reservoir, Drilling, and Production disciplines. Before entering oil and gas industry full time, Candra had opportunities to obtain practical engineering training with Unocal Corporation (Now ChevronTexaco) at a production platform in the Gulf of Mexico and Occidental Elk Hills Inc. at Bakersfield, CA during summer 2003 and 2004 respectively.

After obtaining Bachelor of Science with High Scholastic Honor in Petroleum Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, Candra accepted a Petroleum Engineering position at THUMS/Occidental Long Beach, Inc. He has served as Young Professional Chair/Liaison for LASPE since 2007. Currently, he is also a member of LASPE Board of Directors. He is looking forward to working with these three new officers to create growth within YP Los Angeles Section.

### **John Roby – University Relations**

[John\\_Roby@oxy.com](mailto:John_Roby@oxy.com)



John Roby graduated with honors from the University of Texas school of Mechanical Engineering. Growing up in Houston, Texas, he developed an interest in the oil patch at a young age. During his senior year of college, he worked on a joint design project with Baker Hughes and NASA. The project scope was to design a rover controlled coring system, which will be used in a 2010 space mission to Mars. The goal of the project is to collect core samples, in hopes of finding evidence of water below the surface of Mars. After graduation, he began working THUMS/Occidental Long Beach Inc., an Occidental Oil and Gas Company (OXY) in August 2006.

Since joining OXY, he has graduated from the engineering training program and worked as a completions engineer before settling into his current role as a production engineer for the Shallow Gas, Terminal and 237 reservoirs. This current role builds his experience in three uniquely different reservoirs ranging from primary to secondary production, with wells flowing naturally to those needing artificial lift. Oil and gas production is an important, high energy industry, which keeps him learning something new every day. He is extremely excited to have the opportunity to act as LASPE's Young Professional University Relations Officer and looks forward to our newly formed team's future accomplishments.

## LASPE Young Professional Organization Update *continues*

### **Katy Canan – Membership**

[Katy\\_Canan@oxy.com](mailto:Katy_Canan@oxy.com)



Katy Canan graduated from University of Texas in 2006 with a bachelors degree in Petroleum Engineering. She first got experience to the oilfield through family working in the industry. Katy has been active in SPE since her freshman year of college and was an officer for the University of Texas Student chapter, one of the largest student SPE chapters. She has over five years of continuous membership with SPE. While in college, she worked for Enventure Solid Expandable Tubulars company in their research and development division for a summer. During the school year she also worked part time for Sandefer Capital Partner, a petroleum investment company. Katy started working for THUMS/Occidental Long Beach, Inc. in June of 2006. She has gone through the engineering development program. Katy has worked as both a production and reservoir engineer. Currently Katy is one of the reservoir engineers for the Ranger East reservoir management team.

### **Leila Rashedi – Activities/Events**

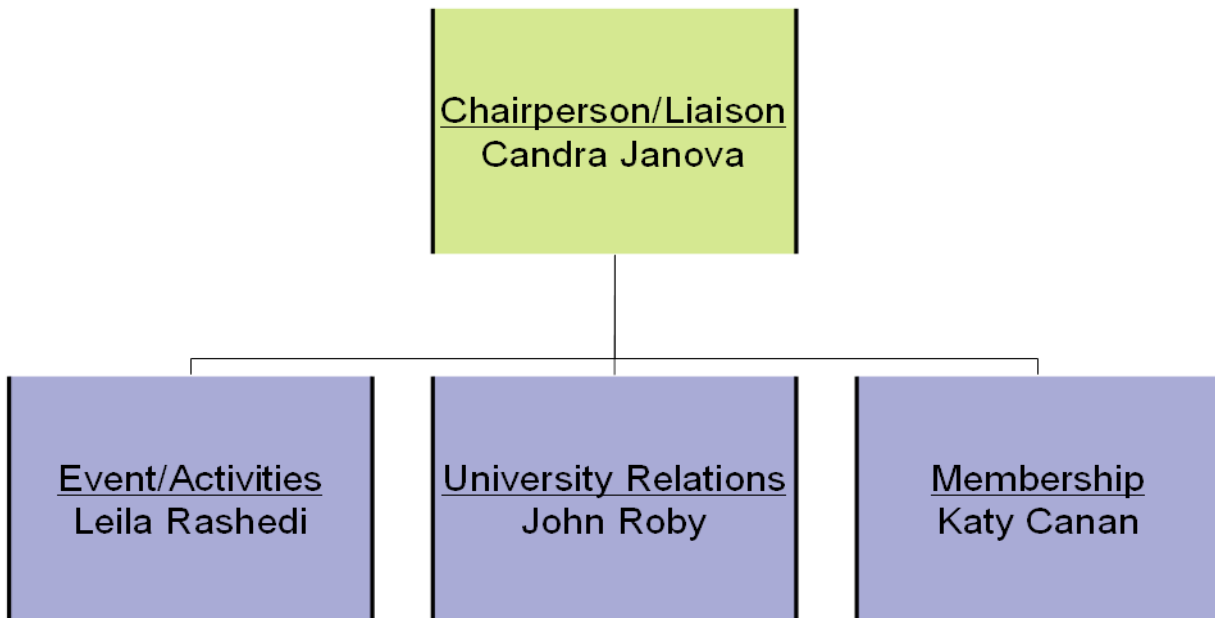
[Leila\\_Rashedi@oxy.com](mailto:Leila_Rashedi@oxy.com)



Leila Rashedi graduated from the University of Texas in 2006 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. She was involved in ASME while at Texas but participated in some SPE events in her last 2 years of school. She had internship experience with various companies during school including 2 summers in the petroleum industry. Upon graduation, she joined THUMS/Occidental Long Beach, Inc. in Long Beach, CA as a Production Engineer. Leila is currently working in the Ranger West reservoir management team. She looks forward to continuing to be a part of SPE Young Professionals and having a more active role in planning this year's activities.

## LASPE YP Organization Chart

### 2009 YP Organizational Chart



#### Upcoming Events/Activities:

- Monthly gathering (on fourth Wednesdays or Thursdays)
- YPSPE Ambassador Lecture Program (CSULB – March, USC – TBD)
- Energy Day on March 28
- Colorado School of Mines visit on May 21 (Oil 101 and beach activities)

*If you work within oil and gas industry in the LA basin area with either less than 10 year of experience or under 30 year-old and want to participate in the Young Professional SPE events, please contact Katy Canan at [Katy\\_Canan@oxy.com](mailto:Katy_Canan@oxy.com).*

The Young Professional Committee of LASPE invites all YP members to get involved with activities planned. Also please volunteer yourself to serve as a committee member to have good representation across the industry.

## OCEC Honors LASPE Nominees for Young Engineer Award

### Orange County Engineering Council (OCEC) Honors and Awards Banquet

LASPE is sponsoring a table for 10 persons to attend Orange County Engineering Council's (OCEC's) annual Honors and Awards Banquet on February 20, 2009. It will be held at **The Centre, Sycamore Plaza, Long Beach** on **February 20, 2009** starting at **5 pm**.

This gala event will feature a sumptuous dinner followed by a fascinating keynote address on Rail in Orange County: All Aboard...or Not? by Mr. Peter Buffa, the Chairman of the Orange County Transit Authority. Peter Buffa is a media and political consultant to companies and public agencies. He has also been involved in transportation issues for over 20 years. He currently serves as Chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority, served 11 years as a Director and Chair of the Orange County Transportation Corridor Agencies and 12 years as a Mayor and Council Member of Costa Mesa, California.

OCEC will recognize the best of the best in engineering for Southern California in 2008 by presenting awards in a broad range of categories, ranging from Outstanding Student Awards to Project and Engineer of the Year Awards. These presentations, which acknowledge outstanding individual and project achievements, are always a highlight of the year. **Three LASPE members - AB Gorashi Abdulrahman, Salina Derichsweiler, and Candra Janova - have been nominated to receive OCEC Young Engineer Award.** See the biographies of the LASPE members nominated in this newsletter: Page 9 for AB Gourashi Abdulrahman and Salina Derichsweiler, Page 5 for Candra Janova.

For any interested parties in attending this event, please read the flyer on the next page or follow this link:

[http://www.ocec.org/Home/2009\\_AB/Flyer%20OCEC%20Awards%20Banquet%202-20-09.pdf](http://www.ocec.org/Home/2009_AB/Flyer%20OCEC%20Awards%20Banquet%202-20-09.pdf)

Regards,  
Candra Janova  
YP LASPE Chairperson  
[Candra\\_Janova@oxy.com](mailto:Candra_Janova@oxy.com)



## LASPE Members Nominated for OCEC Young Engineer Award

**Candra Janova** *(see Candra's biography on page 5 in the Young Professional Update)*

### **AB Gorashi Abdulrahman, P.E**



AB Gorashi A. received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical engineering from Khartoum University and Master of Science degree in Industrial Management with a focus on Operational Research from the University of Central Missouri State. AB is a registered professional Mechanical Engineer (P.E) in the State of California and the State of New Mexico.

In the fall of 2001, AB began his career as an Air Resources Engineer in the California Environmental Protection Agency with his first assignment in the California Air Resources Board. In April 2003, he accepted a job as a project engineer with SCS Engineers Environmental Consultants. He was assigned to prepare air quality permits for various emission sources, develop compliance reports and emission inventory reports. In April 2005, AB accepted a job with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and transferred to the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources as an Energy Mineral Resources Engineer. He represents the Division for witnessing jobs in oil fields and assists in developing standards for oil field facilities in California. He was assigned to special projects for underground injection projects and State abandonment projects.

It has been a privilege for AB to be a Board member with Los Angeles SPE Section and a full member since 2005.

### **Salina Derichsweiler**



Salina Derichsweiler, 28, graduated from Colorado School of Mines with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and Petroleum Refining in 2002. During her undergraduate studies she worked at the technology facility for Marathon Oil Company in Littleton, CO and then as a reservoir engineering intern for a small independent, Tom Brown. Upon graduation she moved from her home state, Colorado, to accept a job as a petroleum engineer with Oxy Long Beach, Inc. After working as a reservoir engineer for a few years, she changed disciplines to drilling engineering and also decided to return to the academic world while working full time. In 2007, Salina received her MBA from Pepperdine University. After six years in the industry she was promoted to management and in her current role she supervises reservoir engineers, production engineers and geologists. In her spare time, Salina volunteers at local Alzheimer's homes and assists the local sorority chapter as an advisor. She enjoys crafts, reading, and outdoor activities. Salina resides in Huntington Beach, CA with her husband Chris, son Cooper (9 months), daughter Charlotte (13 months), and pet beagle Scout.

# Orange County Engineering Council Presents 2009 ANNUAL ENGINEERS WEEK AWARDS BANQUET *National Theme: "Change"*

**Friday, February 20, 2009**  
**The Centre at Sycamore Plaza**  
 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712  
 562-804-4434



**Keynote:** *Rail in Orange County: All Aboard...or Not?*



**Mr. Peter Buffa**  
 Chairman,  
 Orange County  
 Transportation Authority

Peter Buffa is a media and political consultant to companies and public agencies. He has also been involved in transportation issues for over 20 years. He currently serves as Chairman of the Orange County Transportation Authority, served 11 years as a Director and Chair of the Orange County Transportation Corridor Agencies and 12 years as a Mayor and Council Member of Costa Mesa, California.

Peter began his career as a producer for public television, where his work earned two EMMY Awards. Peter writes a weekly humor column for the L.A. Times-Daily Pilot. He and his wife, Sharyn, have been married for 40 years and have two children. Peter is a former Air Force officer, a first-generation Italian-American, a former New Yorker, and lists his proudest accomplishment as being the 1959 Bronx Spelling Bee Champion.

### *Program Agenda*

5:00 pm	Networking
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Keynote Speaker
7:30 pm	Awards Presentation
9:30 pm	Adjournment

*Recognizing Outstanding Engineers, Scientists, Educators and Engineering Leaders in key categories:*

- James E. Ballinger Engineer of the Year
- Project of the Year Award
- Outstanding Engineering Merit Awards
- Engineering Project Achievement Awards
- Outstanding Service Awards
- Distinguished Engineering Educator Award
- Pioneer Educator Award
- Young Engineer Awards
- Outstanding Student Awards
- OCEC President Award

### **TICKETS**

**Individual: \$80.00, Table of 10: \$800.00, Students \$30.00**  
 Please fill in the Ticket Order information and meal choice, make check(s) payable to OCEC and mail to:

**Mr. Phil Ridout, OCEC Treasurer,**  
 6962 Los Amigos Circle,  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92647  
 Email: [pridout@socialrr.com](mailto:pridout@socialrr.com)

### **TICKET ORDER FORM**

AWARDS BANQUET TICKETS (includes self-parking)	NUMBER ORDERED	SUBTOTAL
INDIVIDUAL AT \$80.00 PER TICKET		
TABLE OF 10 AT \$800.00 PER TABLE		
STUDENTS AT \$30.00 PER TICKET		
ADDITIONAL DONATION*		
Total		

\* Tickets or Funds may be donated for students, community leaders, scholarships, etc.

**MENU:** 1) Steak \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ 3) Fish \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*For any additional information and further details, please contact:*

**Adam Chamaa, OCEC VP Engineering, Phone: 714-375-3830**

**Dr. Peter R. Kurzhals, OCEC President, Phone: 714-896-1123**

**Note: All reservations must be received by February 13, 2009**

## WRM 2009, San Jose, CA March 24-26

**The Western North American Region of the Society of Petroleum Engineers invites you to early registration for the 2009 SPE Western Regional Meeting, being held 24-26 March at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California, USA.**

Register online at <http://www.spe.org/events/wrm/registration.html> by **9 March** to save USD 100 on full registration!

Under the theme "**New Solutions for Maximizing Recovery and Value**" the 2009 conference will include technical paper presentations, panel discussion, short courses, and an exhibition. Industry leaders will present their thoughts on trends in areas of carbon management, natural gas supply and demand, and mature fields in California. The meeting exhibition will feature vendors and exhibitors who specialize in providing services tailored to meet this region's needs.

### Topics Covered:

- Carbon Management
- Natural Gas Supply and Storage
- Geothermal Resources
- Reservoir Management
- Waste Disposal and Environmentally Friendly Operations
- Innovations in Drilling
- Design and Operation of Facilities
- Heavy Oil and Thermal Recovery
- Problems of and Solutions for Small and Midsize Producers
- Unconventional Resources
- Energy Industry in the Western Region

Program highlights include an opening plenary session on "Delivering Energy, Protecting the Environment," and the Annual Regional Awards Luncheon with keynote speaker John McDonald, the chief technology officer for Chevron.

Tours are offered for an additional price, and tickets can be purchased at online registration or on-site. The following tours are offered:

- Geysers Geothermal Field and a Local Winery, Monday, 23 March
- Nightly Dinner Cruise on San Francisco Bay, Wednesday, 25 March
- Wente Vineyards, Thursday, 26 March

Visit <http://www.spe.org/events/wrm/tours.html> for more information on tours and conference details.

## Services Offered

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**Petroleum Engineering Consultant**  
**LA Basin SPE Jr. Past Chairman**  
**714-403-9839**  
**LOVESM @ IX.NETCOM.COM**

**DAVID B. DEL MAR**  
**Consulting Petroleum Geologist**  
**California Registered Geologist #634**

**Development - Thermal EOR - Property Reviews**

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dbdelmar@earthlink.net**

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