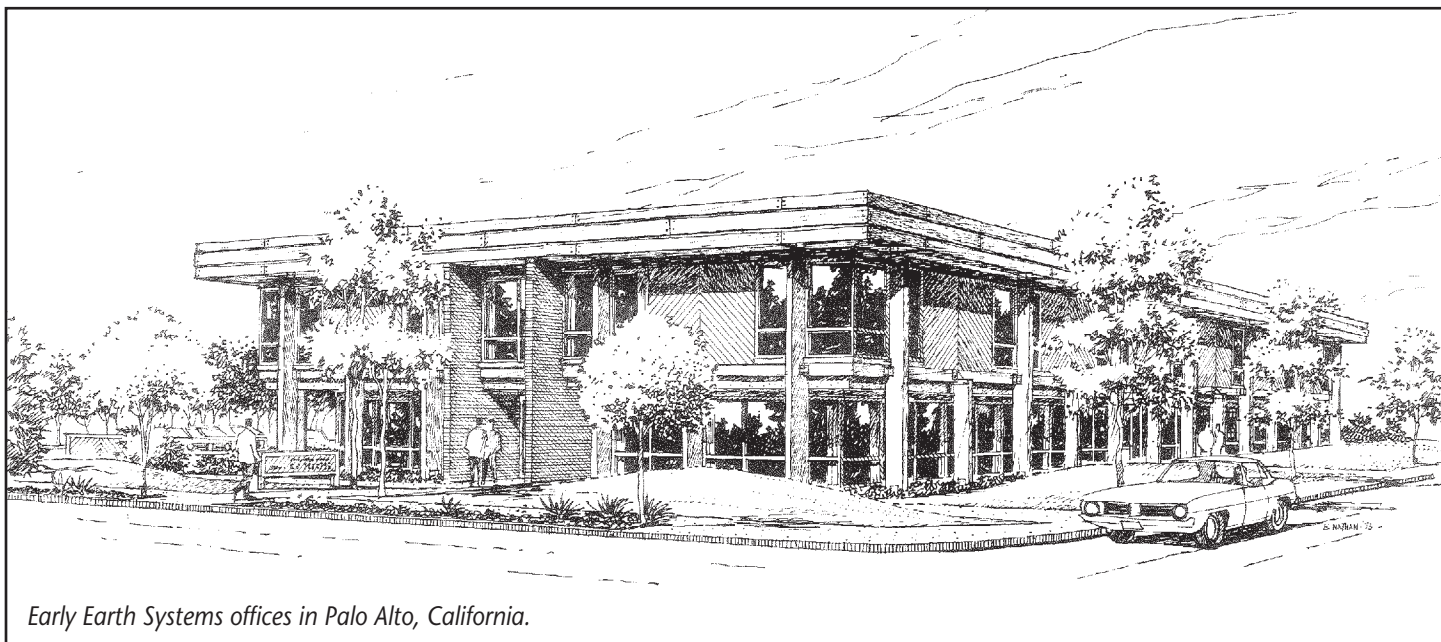


Consultants Corner

Engineering for the future



Early Earth Systems offices in Palo Alto, California.

Earth Systems, Inc. – Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Earth Systems group of companies. Founded in 1969 by civil engineer Al Gribaldo and several partners, Earth Systems, Inc. was headquartered in Mountain View, California, and initially offered soils engineering and geology services primarily within the San Francisco Bay area.

At that time, the construction industry and regulatory climate were quite different than they are today, and soils engineering services were typically only provided (or required) for large commercial, industrial and institutional

facilities. Starting in the 1960s, natural events such as the 1964 Alaska earthquake and 1971 Sylmar earthquake brought the subject of earth science and engineering to the forefront of the American consciousness. The seismically-induced collapses of highway structures, hospitals and bridges led to increased awareness of the need to understand, and design for, the interaction between structures and the earth. Major changes in building codes, seismic requirements and code enforcement followed, creating a greater demand for studies of the geologic and geotechnical properties of proposed building sites.

Recognizing the growing importance of the soils engineering and geology professions, Gribaldo sought to expand the Earth Systems companies, and remained the dynamic force behind the direction of the company for the next 35 years. Several additional offices were opened throughout California and the services were expanded to meet the increasingly varied needs of our clients. In addition to geotechnical engineering and geologic studies, construction observation, materials testing, special inspection, forensic evaluation and geophysical capability were offered.

With his vision, leadership skills and

(continued on page 4)



Earth Systems group of companies

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40 Years of Excellence... *(continued from page 1)*

ability to think outside the box, Gribaldo led the company from a relatively small, local company to one of the larger, primarily geotechnical engineering firms in California. The Earth Systems group of companies currently has offices throughout California, and comprises Earth Systems Southern California, Earth Systems Southwest, Earth Systems Pacific, ES Geotechnologies and our newest addition, Earth Systems Global, Inc.

With the 1980s came greater awareness of the impact of human activities upon the environment, fueled by the passage of federal and state laws designed to minimize and prevent environmental damage. Legislation requiring owners to locate, remove, upgrade or replace underground storage tanks became effective in 1984, and owners were legally obligated to clean up sites damaged by petroleum contamination. Hazardous materials consulting had previously been confined to a limited range of industrial sites; it suddenly became a burgeoning field, as assessment of soil or groundwater was necessary for all underground tank operators to comply with the new regulations.

The Earth Systems companies responded by creating new divisions to provide these services, along with soil and groundwater monitoring and development of remediation systems.

Later, upon recognizing the potential liability that contaminated sites presented, lenders instituted requirements that Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) be performed prior to approving loans for commercial and industrial properties. The Earth Systems companies have provided Phase I ESAs to a broad base of clients since the late 1980s, including businesses, lenders, state/local governments and school districts.

Most recently, the need to preserve and protect our natural resources has generated sustainable development approaches to new construction, energy development and the way that we go about our daily business. Recognizing that the Earth Systems companies could contribute to a sustainable environment, we made a commitment to provide design and construction options that utilize recycled materials, reduce the amount of site grading and promote green building practices. For projects designed to achieve LEED certification, geotechnical reports address issues in a manner that is consistent with LEED goals, such as providing geotechnical guidance to assist in the development of on-site storm water disposal systems.

We recently formed a new company, Earth Systems Global, Inc., to provide services that are specifically geared toward support of the renewable energy field, including the solar, wind and

geothermal power industries. We have provided geotechnical and structural engineering services for wind and solar power projects throughout continental U.S., Canada, Jamaica and recently China.

Community involvement and corporate responsibility are values that have become integral to the philosophy of the Earth Systems companies. We are proud of our long history of community involvement through active membership in local Chambers of Commerce, building industry associations, Rotary, Kiwanis, planning commissions and numerous advisory boards. We contribute pro bono services to Habitat for Humanity, Water for People, and many other local, state and national charitable organizations. Our employees volunteer for community projects, often coaching, mentoring and leading the youth in our communities. Through the Engineers Without Borders organization, one of our engineers recently mentored a group of university students, assisting a community in Nicaragua in the construction of a local health clinic.

As we mark our 40-year anniversary, we look back with pride at what we have accomplished, and forward with enthusiasm to supporting sustainable development through innovation and engineering for the future.

—Michael V. Smith, RG, CEG
President, CEO

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING • MATERIALS TESTING & INSPECTION • ENGINEERING GEOLOGY • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING



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