

Inland Geological Society

Newsletter of the Inland Geological Society Volume 38 No. 7

September 2026

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday,
September 1st**

Time:

Social: 6:00pm

Dinner 6:15pm

**Presentation:
7:00pm**

Location:

3 Iron

Brewing Company

898 South Via Lata,

Suite A

Colton, CA 92324

Coming to Dinner?

Students \$10

IGS Members \$15

Non-Members \$20

Please RSVP by

August 28th, to:

rsvp.igs@gmail.com

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"What Do Employers Really Want"

Entering the professional world with an earth sciences degree presents a complex set of challenges for recent college graduates. The broadness of the field, encompasses everything from climate science, environmental protection, traditional resource extraction and management, education, and geological hazard mitigation, new alumni often struggle to define a clear career direction. They may find themselves competing against candidates with more specialized technical degrees, and realizing that entry-level positions demand advanced skill sets, such as proficiency in basic engineering, Geographic Information Systems, complex data modeling, and familiarity with building codes and environmental regulations, that standard undergraduate programs may only touch upon.

Graduates must learn to bridge the gap between hard science and policy, mastering both communication and technical skills while adapting to constantly changing industry demands. Employers increasingly prioritize hands-on experience with modern data analysis tools, remote sensing software, and spatial mapping over purely theoretical knowledge. At the same time, traditional career tracks in engineering geology and resource extraction face cyclical hiring freezes, while emerging fields in climate resilience and green energy require navigating competitive civil service processes or private consulting opportunities. Furthermore, long-term career progression and specialized roles often demand advanced degrees, professional licenses, or specific certifications that require additional time and financial investment after college. Despite these challenges, employers are willing to give the right candidate an opportunity to gain practical experience.

To become a successful job applicant in such a competitive market, a candidate must convince interviewers that they are the best fit for the position. Essentially, the candidate must stand out as the most self-motivated, reliable, effective communicator, able to critically think and problem solve, and have the willingness to learn and adapt to the needs of the employer.

Speaker Biography:

Jeff Fitzsimmons holds Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist licenses issued by the State of California, and is a graduate of California State University, San Bernardino with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology. Over the last eleven years, he has served as an Engineering Geologist with the Colorado River Basin and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards. For 27 years prior to joining the Regional Water Boards, Mr. Fitzsimmons was employed with Southern California based geotechnical and engineering geological consulting firms, as a soils technician, field engineer, field geologist, staff engineer or geologist, and senior staff geologist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Inland Geological Society will meet the first Tuesday of each month at:

3 Iron Brewing Company

898 South Via Lata , Suite A

Colton, California 92324

(<https://www.3ironbrewingco.com>)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2026.

Visit our:

· Webpage at <https://www.inlandgeo.org/>.

· Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InlandGeo/>.

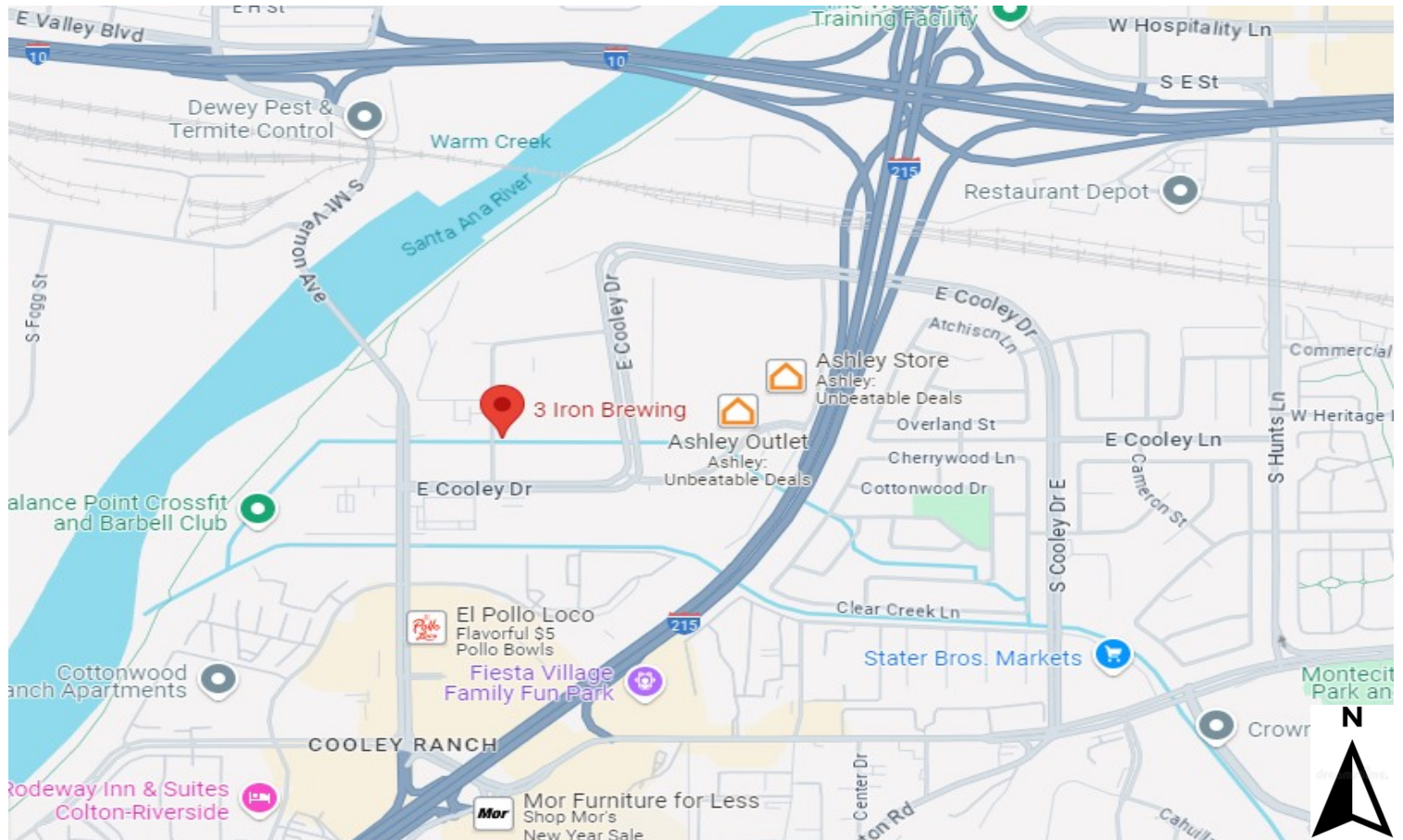
If you are interested in serving as the Inland Geological Society Vice President or Secretary, please email Margaret Gooding at mgooding@roadrunner.com.

IGS coffee mugs are available at the monthly meetings for \$10. Get yours at the upcoming meeting!





898 South Via Lata , Suite A
Colton, California 92324
(<https://www.3ironbrewingco.com>)



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