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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BSK Associates Wins CalGeo Award Project Embraced Natural Features of the Site**

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA – JUNE 3, 2010.** BSK Associates (BSK) received the California Geotechnical Engineering Association (CalGeo) 2009-2010 Large Project of the Year Award for geotechnical engineering and design services related to the new \$69 million Minarets High School located in O'Neals, California.

Recognized for innovative geotechnical design, its impact to society, and a successful completion, the high school has many advanced technological features and panoramic views. Project highlights included designs that protected endangered species, natural vernal pools, and Native American burial grounds. The civil design placed more than 50,000 linear feet of water and wastewater conveyance systems in sensitive and difficult terrain. The roads and walkways made from blasted and crushed on-site granite rock eliminated the need to import such materials, and provided a large cost savings for the Chawanakee School District.

BSK founder, Hugo Kevorkian, P.E., G.E., was the Geotechnical Engineer of Record for the project, and said, "Environmentally and culturally sensitive areas within the development required extensive planning and usage of various earth retaining structures and improvements to protect the sites."

Amer Hussain, P.E., LEED AP, Vice President of Engineering, accepted the award on behalf of BSK during the CalGeo Annual Conference held in May at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California. According to Hussain, "This project utilized multiple BSK services including geotechnical and environmental engineering, analytical testing, materials testing and construction observation. The synergy of the team members largely contributed to the success of this project."

BSK team members included:

- Geotechnical Engineer-of-Record - Hugo Kevorkian, P.E., G.E.
- Earthwork Team: Jon Schneider, Luis Herrera, Marshall Robinson, Dave Ridlon, Ashleigh Love, and Nathan Shwiyhat, P.E.
- Environmental Team: Mark Pomaville, Marshall Robinson, Sarah Worcester, Andrew Burgin, and Kyle Anderson
- Construction Inspection Team: Gary Blomgren, William Kates, Dan Palmer, Casey Courtney, Darren Alexander, Chris Helm, Dan Palmer, Jr., Eric Sparrow, and Brandon Roby
- Project Administrators: Jacqueline Murphy, Melanie Thomas, Andy Newfeld, and Amanda Martin
- Testing Team: Carl Davis, and Ken Frank

### **About BSK:**

BSK Associates provides analytical testing, construction observation, ecological services, engineering geology, environmental engineering, food safety services, materials testing, geotechnical engineering, and water resources. Established in 1966, BSK is employee-owned, and has offices and laboratories throughout California.

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Source: BSK Associates

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