

SEARCHERS BOARD OFFICERS

- President: Jay Erb
- 1st VP: Veronica Purura
- 2nd VP: Steve Duncan
- Director: Jimmy Peterson
- Secretary: Jamie Cassidy-Curtis
- Treasurer: Charlotte Spalding
- Federation Delegate: Kim Campbell Erb
- Committee Chairpersons
- Anaheim Arts Council: Beth Pelfrey
- Editor: Linda Horn
- Historian: Beth Pelfrey
- Hospitality: Lorri Renck
- Library Membership: Beth Pelfrey
- Monthly Drawing: Skip and Connie Cone
- Sunshine:
- Veteran's Coordinator: Larry Richey
- Website: Walter
- Workshop: Adrian Callard
- Rock's Kids: Terri Benedict

IN THIS ISSUE

Field Trips	2
Club Meetings	3
Upcoming CFM Shows	4
Kids Corner	7

POINTS OF INTEREST

FIELD TRIPS

GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

The Rock Slab News

The Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Anaheim CA

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 10



OCTOBER 2014

The President's Message

Hello Searchers and friends,

Kudos to all of the Searchers who helped create and fill the display at the Brookhurst Community Center. Organized by Veronica, the display was filled by Steve, Herb, Jimmy, Norbert, Greg Bunch, Robert B. and Adrian.

As far as displays are concerned, the BLM threw us a curveball in relation to our proposed display at the BLM office in Barstow. We had hoped to kick off the display at the September DAC (Desert Advisory Council) meeting in Barstow. Surprise, they're having the Barstow area meeting in Pahrump NV! We are rescheduling our opening with Katrina Symons, the Barstow Field Manager, for a slightly later date in October. This time we will have publicity in the BLM's [CA Newsbytes](#) (a weekly electronic publication produced by the Bureau of Land Management) and a Barstow area newspaper. There is still time to add your contribution prior to the unveiling.

Elections are coming up soon. If someone from the Nominations Committee has asked if you'd be interested in an office, please consider running. They feel that you may succeed in the office.

Become a rockhound activist. We're not asking you to rock the world, but protect what you love.

Jay Erb

The draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) has finally been released. Details on page 6.

Next fun rock seeking trip will be **Clear Creek**. See page 2.



Field Trips



DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	STATUS
10-25 to 26-2014	Herb Beckman	Clear Creek - Jade in streams, plasma agate at Aurora mine	Planned
11-2014	Robert Burson	Chuckwalla Mountains Agates and Jaspers	Tentative

Clear Creek

Oct. 25-26 2014 Herb Beckman

For field trip
information

contact: Steve

Duncan V.P. Field
Trips, Searchers

Gem and Mineral
Society,

(714) 7247102

(cell) or

wsd@iteris.com

The Clear Creek collecting area is located 35 miles Northwest of Coalinga, CA and has been mined heavily for over 100 years. It is located in the Diablo mountain range in the California Coastal Mountains, about 6 miles east of the San Andreas Fault. The area is heavily mineralized and previous mining activity has made Clear Creek a premium collecting area. The creek itself is contaminated with Mercury due to mining activity and would not sustain plant or animal life. This is apparently why it was named Clear Creek. Although some life now exists in the creek, **THE CREEK WATER IS NOT SAFE TO DRINK.**

Minerals found in this collecting area include: Agate (especially Plasma Agate, a green to blue chalcedony), Barite crystals (rarely), Benitoite with Neptunite and Natrolite crystals, Cinnabar in the form of Myrickite included in the Plasma agate, Chromite with intense green Uvarovite Garnet, Jasper, Jade (mostly Jadeite and occasionally Nephrite, Magnesite, Serpentine, and many other minerals. The Benitoite collecting area is under claim.

We can expect the weather to be pleasant to very warm during our trip. You should, however, be prepared for warm to hot days and cool to cold nights. Elevations in the Clear Creek collecting area range from 2500 to 3500 feet. Other collecting areas we may visit are higher, up to 4500 feet. High clearance vehicles are preferred as all the roads in this area are unpaved. I recommend you prepare for the variable weather prospects by layering your clothing. Also, this is rattlesnake country (I saw one on the last trip) and you would be well advised to wear stout boot and sturdy denim pants. You should bring the following at a minimum: wide brimmed hat, sunscreen, gloves, a squirt bottle, plenty of extra water, and insect repellent. Recommended tools: a rock hammer, small shovel, crack hammer, chisels, eye protection, and a collecting sack. Sledge hammers and pry bars would be quite useful as some of the best material is found as boulders.

Route Plan: Drive North on Interstate 5 to Jayne Rd (14 miles North of the Kettleman City exit). Turn left/West over the Interstate 14 miles to central Coalinga. You are now 222 miles 3.5 hours from downtown Anaheim. As there are no services between Coalinga and King City, this is where you should refuel if

needed and stock on water, food etc.

From the center of town (Elm St and Coalinga Plaza) drive north on Elm St 3.0 miles to "three corners" and turn left/West on Gale St. Drive 2.0 miles to Derrick Blvd and turn right/North for 1.0 miles to Los Gatos Road. Turn left/West on Los Gatos Rd. and go 30 miles to the BLM kiosk marking the entry to the Clear Creek Recreation Area.



Benitoite



Plasma Agate

Field Trip to Clear creek (con.)

The field trip will depart from the Clear Creek Kiosk at 9:00 AM both days. The trips will end approximately 4PM on Sat and 1 PM on Sunday. We will have a potluck 6PM Saturday as usual. We will be staying at the Oak Flat Campground which is near the entrance to Clear Creek Kiosk

Motels are available at Coalinga and King City. Each of these town is about an hour from Clear Creek. Here is a partial list of motels.

Coalinga:

Motel 6 (559) 935-1536

Cambridge Inn Motor Lodge (559) 935-1541

Harris Ranch (559) 935-0717

KBest Western (559) 935-0866

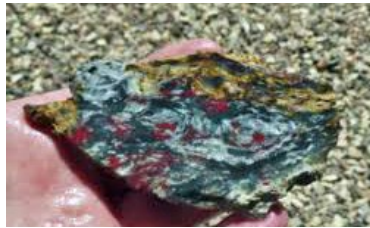
King City:

Best Western (831) 385-6733

Courtesy Inn (831) 385-4646

Days Inn (831) 385-5921

Keefer's Inn (831) 385-4843



Please notify Herb Beckman (714) 778-1496 if you plan on attending this trip so we have a good head count.

Bureaucratic Details:

To enter the Clear Creek Management Area you will need a vehicle use permit (one per vehicle, not per person). This permit is good for one week. There is a \$5 charge for this permit and a \$6 service charge (!). You will also need a Serpentine ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) permit. These are per person, and they are free but again there is a \$6 service charge (!). These permits are on a day basis, and you are allowed 5 days per year. You will need to get 2 ACAC permits, one for Oct 25, and one for Oct 26. These permits are available at Recreation.gov.



Magnesite

October Speaker Topic - Colored Diamonds

Nevada Book & Mineral Store's owner, Walt Lombardo, returns again to give us a stimulating discussion about the various colored diamonds found around the world.

Club Meeting Activity

DATE	PRESENTER	SUBJECT
10-2014	Walt Lombardo	Colored Diamonds
11-2014	None	Pie Party and Cabinet Member Elections
12-2014	No meeting	Christmas Party

For a more complete listing of shows go to web-site:

www.cfmsinc.org

Upcoming 2014 CFMS Gem Shows

OCTOBER 2014

October 1 - 5: JOSHUA TREE, CA Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Morongo Valley Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree 6225 Sunburst Street Hours: 9 - 6 daily Contact: Judy & Roger Thompson, (760) 902-5340 Email: HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com Website: www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gemshow.htm

October 10 - 12: RENO, NV Reno Gem & Mineral Society Craft Show Reno Town Hall corner of Peckham & So. Virginia Street Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3 Contact: Theresa Langhans, (775) 475-0842 Email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com Website: www.renorockhounds.com

October 11 - 12: ANDERSON, CA Shasta Gem & Mineral Society Shasta County Fairgrounds Briggs Street Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Steve Puderbaugh, (530) 604-2951 Email: steve@applayline.com Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

October 11 - 12: GRASS VALLEY, CA Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society Nevada County Fairgrounds 11228 McCourtney Road Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Todd Lawson Email: ncgms@hotmail.com Website: www.ncgms.org

October 11 - 12: TRONA, CA Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society Gem & Mineral Building 13337 Main Street Hours: Sat 7:30 -

5; Sun 7:30 - 4 Jim & Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356 Email: slgms@iwwisp.com Website: www1.iwwisp.com/tronagemclub

October 18 - 19: PLACERVILLE, CA El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Drive Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Bob Graton, (530) 676-2472 Email: info@rockandgemshow.org Show Website: www.rockandgemshow.org Club Website: www.eldoradorocks.org

October 25 - 26: CAYUCOS, CA San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club Cayucos Vets Hall 10 Cayucos Drive Hours: 9 - 5 daily Contact: Kim Patrick Noyes, (805) 610-0603 Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com Website: www.slogem.org

NOVEMBER 2014

November 1 - 2: CONCORD, CA Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society Centre Concord 5298 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.) Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454 Email: show-c@ccmgs.org Website: www.ccmgs.org/gem_show

November 1 - 2: OXNARD, CA Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society Oxnard Performing Arts Center 800 Hobson Way Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4 Contact: Miriam Tetreault, (805) 642-5779 Email: ml_tetreault@hotmail.com Website: www.oxnardgem.com

November 8 - 9: ANAHEIM, CA American Opal Society, Garden Grove The Phoenix Club - Festhalle 1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Hours: Sat 9 - 6; Sun 9 - 5 Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 501-9959 Email: info@opalsociety.org Website: www.opalsociety.org

November 8 - 9: SACRAMENTO, CA Sacramento Mineral Society Scottish Rite Temple 6151 H Street Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Alyssa Mesiznger, (916) 205-4441 Email: gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org Website: sacgemshow.com

November 8 - 9: YUBA CITY, CA Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds - Franklin Hall 442 Franklin Avenue Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4 Contact: Kartie Slightam, (530) 673-9649 Email: mktalterna-tives@comcast.net Website: www.sutterbuttes.net

November 14 - 16: EUREKA, CA Humboldt Gem & Mineral Society Redwood Acres Fairgrounds 3750 Harris Street Hours: Fri 9 - 6, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5 Contact: Diana Reed, (707) 839-2079

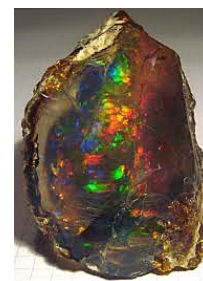
November 22 - 23: SANTA CRUZ, CA Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society Winter Sale Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 - 17th Avenue Hours: 10 - 5 daily Contact: Julia Cornblatt, (831) 687-0509 Email: julia.cornblatt@gmail.com Website: www.scmgs.org

October Birthstone - Opal

October Birth stone poem - the Opal
"October's child is born for woe,
And life's vicissitudes must know,
But lay an opal on her breast,
And hope will lull those woes to rest."

October Birthstone - Properties of the Opal

For those who were born in the month of October the Opal is the traditional birthstone. The October birthstone poem reflects some of the properties with which the Opal is associated - hope, innocence and purity. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties for the October Birthstone Opal are happiness, faithfulness, loyalty and confidence. The healing properties of the October birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the eyes and eye infections. The Opal is also used to enhance visualization, imagination, dreams and healing. The word Opal is derived from the Latin word "opalus" which means "a stone". The precious opal presents a peculiar play of colors of delicate tints, and is highly esteemed as a gem.



Other Field Trips

One of our sister clubs (the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society) has just listed an impressive field trip schedule for 2014. Members of their club often join us on our trips, and we are welcome to join them on their. You can never get too much rockhounding right? Anyhow, their schedule is below, if you plan to join them please do get in touch with Joe Goetz (their field trip leader) at (626) 622-9420. This way they will know you are planning on attending, and be able to update you if there are any changes to the plan.

2014 Field Trip Schedule

Oct 11-12 Searles Lake Club Show & field trips: Pink halite crystals & borax minerals.

Nov 1-2 Whittier Claim Area: honey onyx, agate, jasper, palm root, etc.

Nov 28-30 Wiley's Well Area: Annual CFMS field trip for geodes, agates and other good stuff.

Dec 6 Himalaya Mine Tourmalines: Dig your own pink and green California tourmalines near beautiful Lake Henshaw in San Diego County, 20 miles east of Pala. This is a fee collecting site.

For up-to-date information on these field trips call Joe Goetz at (626)- 622-9420.



In the Field: Benitoite

Benitoite is a rare mineral first discovered in California in 1907 by James Couch. At first it was believed to be sapphire, but samples were sent to the University of California, Berkeley where geologist George Louderback identified it as a mineral new to science. He named it benitoite after its type location near the headwaters of the San Benito River in San Benito County. San Benito County is located in the coastal range mountains of Northern California, south of San Jose and inland from Monterey Bay.



By composition, benitoite is blue barium titanium silicate, found in hydrothermally altered serpentinite. It is not only very rare, but it tends to occur with other unusual minerals, including natrolite, neptunite, joaquinite, serpentine and albite.

Though benitoite has been found in a few other locations in the world (in Arkansas, USA and in Japan and Australia), so far, the only gem-quality specimens have been found in California. In 1985 benitoite was designated as the official state gem of California.

Mainly small crystals of benitoite - weighing less than 1 carat - have been found in gem quality. Though benitoite is not particularly hard (6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale), it has an unusually high refractive index of 1.757 to 1.804, higher than sapphire. It also has dispersion slightly greater than diamond. So a gem-quality benitoite can display impressive brilliance and fire.



Benitoite also has a very unusual crystal formation. It crystallizes in the ditrigonal-dipyramidal class of the hexagonal crystal system.

From:

<http://www.gemselect.com/other-info/california-benitoite.php>



DRAFT DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN FINALLY RELEASED

By Kim Campbell Erb

The long-awaited draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (aka "DRECP") has finally been released for the public's review and comment before it is approved and becomes law. There is no doubt that this will affect future access to our public lands.

This is a first ever plan prepared jointly by Federal and State agencies to designate all lands, public and private, within a vast portion (22.5 million acres) of California, as preferred either for alternative energy projects ("Development Focus Areas", or "DFOs") or as preferred for "conservation". "Conservation" is defined broadly to include recreation as well as species and habitat conservation. The plan will have maps associated with it, and there will be many alternatives, including a no change alternative as well as the alternative that the agencies have designated as "preferred". Following its approval, this Plan will allow developers of alternative energy projects to undergo a much simpler and quicker approval process for projects in DFO's, and it will make it more burdensome for them to obtain approvals for such projects in areas designated as preferred for "conservation". Here is a link to the main web page for the DRECP: <http://www.drecp.org/>

This plan includes a Land Use Plan Amendment ("LUPA") that could be approved independently of the DRECP which will designate new wilderness and conservation areas so it will define use beyond alternative energy projects. This means we lose twice, since the new wilderness and most of the conservation areas will almost certainly be lost to mineral collecting and vehicular access.

Perhaps the most important thing to do **now** in order to preserve our collecting locations is to pour over the maps released with the plan to see how those areas, as well as the areas we need to travel to get to those areas, are designated. We need to determine which of our collecting areas are being designated as DFOs and which are being designated as new wilderness or conservation areas. The next thing we need to do is to review the land use definitions and restrictions applicable to the proposed "conservation" areas to be sure they would allow for continued collecting and continued vehicular access to those locations.

We have been told that, unlike other plans, this plan will provide for mitigation for loss of recreation (among other things), in areas designated for "conservation", so it will also be important to determine if the mitigation proposed for loss of collecting areas is actually provided and whether it is appropriate and/or sufficient.

The public agencies have set up a Data Basin map system with the plan maps that the public is encouraged to use to define the areas that we submit comments about. Although the information cannot be submitted directly from the Data Basin website, it does provide a vehicle to [relatively] easily identify the areas of our concern and record that information so that we can communicate it in a standard format to the public agencies. Here is a link to the Data Basin website for the DRECP: <http://drecp.databasin.org/>

A webinar to help the public navigate and digest the plan will be held on October 9. For more information about the webinar and how to participate (or just listen), please go to <http://drecp.org/calendar/index.php?com=detail&eID=572>.

No public meetings have yet been scheduled for this plan, which is very unusual. Hopefully they will provide sufficient notice for the meetings and site them when and where it is most logical to get good public attendance and participation.

The public comment period for this plan ends January 9, 2015. This may seem like a long time, but it is very short considering the length and complexity of this plan, not to mention the huge geographic area affected by it. If you think it is unreasonably short, please do not hesitate to send them a comment letter NOW telling them so, and why. There is no limit on the number of comments any individual or group can make.

Kid's Corner

We will be starting a section for kids. The information will be coming from a newsletter for kids called *Mini Miners Monthly* by Diamond Dan Publications . He is kind enough to allow us to use parts of his newsletter. This is from an earlier edition, Vol. 8 No. 9.

Agate & Chalcedony



You are familiar with quartz. We have had a lot of quartz crystals in Mini Miners issues. Most of the quartz you are familiar with forms crystals. Examples include rock crystal, amethyst, citrine, smoky quartz, and milky quartz.



There is another type of quartz that you have probably seen, but you may not know that it is quartz. This type of quartz forms crystals that are so small that they can only be seen with a special microscope. Mineralogists call this type of quartz cryptocrystalline. Chalcedony and agate are two varieties of this special type of quartz.

Chalcedony is very hard, 7 on the hardness scale. It is light. Chalcedony is usually banded. The bands alternate between fibrous bands and bands that are made up of microscopic grains.



There are a number of different varieties, or types, of chalcedony. The most popular and well-known is agate. Agate is banded chalcedony. The bands can be different shades of gray. But they can also be a number of different colors. The bands are red, orange and dark brown.



Another type of chalcedony is called jasper. Jasper is red chalcedony. Chalcedony often forms in rounded masses like this specimen. Light to dark brown chalcedony is called carnelian. Apple-green chalcedony is called chrysoprase. Dark green chalcedony with red spots is known as bloodstone or heliotrope because the red spots look like drops of blood. Gray and black, waxy-looking chalcedony is called flint. All the different chalcedony varieties are cut and polished by jewelers and lapidary artists to make jewelry. Flint can be chipped into very sharp edges. Native peoples have used flint for arrowheads, spearheads, and various cutting tools.



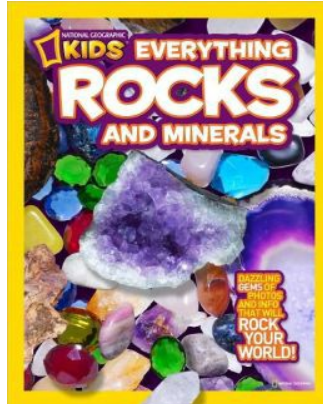
Now that you have read about chalcedony, what do you think the lower right specimen is?



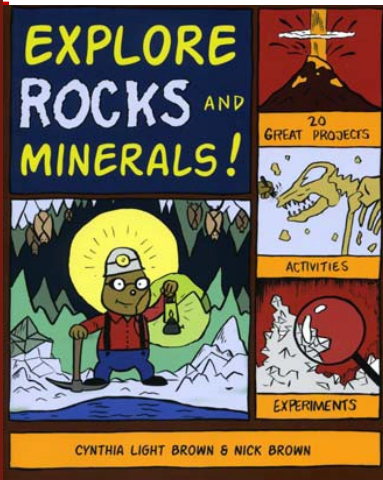
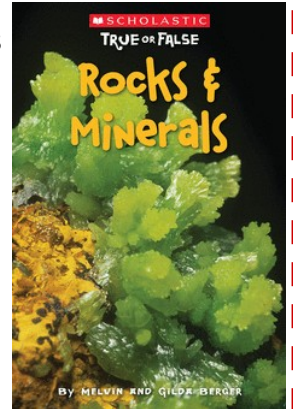
Excellent Mineral Books for Very Young Collectors.

There are many colorful, well-illustrated and informative books about minerals for very young collectors. Here is a short list for you to check out . . .

Everything Rocks & Minerals,
published by National
Geographic



True or False Rocks
and Minerals, pub-
lished by Scholas-
tic, by Melvin and
Gilda Berger.



Explore Rocks and Minerals, by
Cynthia Light Brown and Nick
Brown

Extreme Rocks & Minerals, by
Melissa Stewart, published by
Smithsonian



Diamond Dan recommends that you visit
these trustworthy mineral book suppliers.
We have found them to always give good service. They also have fair prices.

Gem Guides Book Company:

http://www.gemguidesbooks.com/pdfs/GGBC_2014_Junior.pdf

Lithographie, LLC: <http://www.lithographie.org/>

Nevada Mineral and Book Company: <http://www.minbooks.net/publications.html>

A Good book source with links: The Vug: <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugbookstore.html>

Mineralogical Research Company: <http://www.minresco.com/minbooks/bindex.htm>

Mini Miners Monthly is produced by Diamond Dan Publications, Rochester, New York.
Darryl Powell, editor Emma Fajcz, contributing editor

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society

General Information



Check our website for unexpected changes in schedule!

www.searchersrocks.org

General Meetings: 7 PM, 2nd Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Board Meetings: 6PM, 1st Tuesday of each month, Jan - Nov

Workshop: Thursday, 6 – 10 PM, free wire-wrap class.

Saturday, 3 – 7 PM Free silver-smithing class 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays (schedule varies).

Location: Anaheim Downtown Community Center
250 East Center St.
Anaheim, CA 92805

Mailing Address: Searchers Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O Box 3492
Anaheim, CA 92803

Website: www.searchersrocks.org

Membership Dues:	Individual	\$25
	Couple	\$35
	Junior (17 & under)	\$10

Valid Jan.1-Dec.31, not prorated

Bulletin: Submissions due 3rd Friday of the month via e-mail to: editor@searchersrocks.org.

Bulletin distributed 1st week of each month. Mail exchange bulletins to the editor:

Searchers —Linda Horn Editor

P.O. Box 3492

Anaheim, Ca. 92803

Charter Date: April 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



PtCreations

2812-B Walnut Ave.
Tustin, Ca 92780 714-904-2181
www.ptcreations.net

THE NEVADA MINERAL & BOOK COMPANY

<http://minbooks.net/>

342 S. Tustin Street • Orange, CA 92866
Ph. 714-633-1549

Rusty's Gold & Treasure Hunting Supply

Club members show your ID card and receive a 10% off purchases over \$100

Authorized dealer for Garrett, Fisher, and Tesoro metal detectors

5642 E. La Palma Ave., #208, Anaheim, CA 92807 (corner of La Palma and Imperial Hwy.)

714 693-GOLD (4653). Store hours: Tu - Sat 10am - 6pm



The Agateer Lapidary Supply

www.theagateer.com

(657) 464-0400

Licensed Dealer

Saws, Diamond Saw Blades – Cutting Oil – Dressing Sticks
Cabbing Machines – Diamond Wheels – Dop Supplies
Tumble-Bee Tumblers, Grit Kits, Tumbling Media

Free Delivery within Orange County for orders over \$150



15131 Triton Lane #117
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714-893-6643
www.sccgemology.org