



EERI Northern California Chapter Update

January, 2007

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Chapter Announcements

Bart and The BIG One Chapter Meeting will be Thurs. Jan. 25 at the ABAG Auditorium, 101 8th Street, Oakland (directly across from the Lake Merritt BART station). Refreshments at 5:30 PM, Official Business starts at 6 PM. Ed Matsuda, BART Seismic Engineering Manager, will present Benefits of System Earthquake Scenario Analyses From an Owners' Perspective. John Eiding, President of G&E Engineering will present the Use of BART System Analysis Program for Emergency Response.

San Francisco Needs YOU! In their continued effort to make San Francisco a seismically safer place, the City is looking for volunteers to help survey their soft-story buildings in preparation for the upcoming Soft-Story Retrofit Ordinance. We will walk through selected neighborhoods (Marina District, North Bay, Russian Hill, Mission District), compiling basic info onto provided forms. EERI-NC and SEAONC are working with the City's Department of Building Inspections to coordinate these efforts and are reaching out to other professional organizations (e.g. AIA, ASCE, CALBO) and engineering students in EERI and SEAONC Student Chapters to widen community involvement.

The survey is Sat. Feb. 24, 2007 and, if necessary, March 3 and 10. Volunteers will meet and sign-in at a central location (TBD) to be given a brief training talk (at 9 AM) covering administrative and technical points; disperse in teams to designated neighborhoods; conduct the surveys on foot; then re-convene (around 1 PM) to turn in the forms and enjoy a post-survey pizza party. We're also looking for additional team leaders who will be responsible for helping parcel out block maps, answer questions in the field, and conduct spot checks for QA.

If interested, please contact EERI-NC via Marguerite Bello (mbello@mabse.com) or SEAONC via David Bonowitz (David.Bonowitz@jud.ca.gov) by Feb. 9; let us know if you'll be driving or taking public transportation to get there, and also, if you're interested in being a team leader. It's a great opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise, meet like-minded seismic activists, and contribute towards preparing the City for The Big One!

The Fremont Earthquake Exhibit Meeting will take place Thurs. Jan. 25, 2:30-4:30 PM at the Math Science Nucleus, 4074 Eggers Drive, Fremont. This meeting will discuss a permanent Earthquake Exhibit in Fremont. EERI-NC members are encouraged to participate to ensure the proposal succeeds and to contribute to exhibits regarding earthquake risk management. It would be great if EERI's Student Chapters, PEER's Education Program, and EERI National's Education Committee considered a design

competition for the future museum as a candidate topic for next year's Student Earthquake Engineering Design Competition. Meeting discussion will include phasing, the design competition, feasibility studies, etc. Then, the group will split into committees for further action. Please RSVP to Joyce Blueford, Math Science Nucleus blueford@msnucleus.org, (510) 790-6284. See www.msnucleus.org/haywardfault/index.htm for more info.

Event Recap

Fire Station Retrofit Update. On Fri., Jan. 19, EERI-NC members Marguerite Bello, Craig Cole, and Fred Turner participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers Standards Committee for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings. They presented the results of EERI-NC's 2006 survey of fire stations in the San Francisco Bay Area and recommended that the Committee add provisions to its standard ASCE 41 to help ensure that retrofitted fire stations and other essential services facilities have garage doors that will open after earthquakes. The Committee accepted the recommendation after suggesting refinements and agreed to ballot the proposal. The ASCE Committee also recommended to ballot major proposals that incorporate recent research results from the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center. If enacted, these will allow substantial increases in building capacities to resist earthquakes and lower the costs of future retrofits. If the proposals pass the Committee's ballot and a subsequent public ballot, they will be included in a Supplement to ASCE 41 later this year.

Upcoming Events

The 2007 Annual EERI Meeting: Seismic Challenges in a Changing Urban Environment will take place Feb. 7-10 in Los Angeles. If you missed riding the shake table at the 2006 Centennial Convention, this is your second chance! Experience an earthquake as Prof. Jack Moehle guides guests through the Universal Studios Subway Earthquake Ride. Register at www.eeri.org/news/meetings/07AM/ .

A Special Meeting and Public Discussion regarding Earthquake Shut-Off Devices for Gas Supplies will be hosted by the Department of Building Inspection, Wed., Jan. 24, 2006, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001. Discussion will include their relative value to the citizens of San Francisco in reducing post-earthquake fires, impacts of gas service stoppage on San Francisco's population, costs, and related issues. Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions or to call to discuss this topic. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, at (415) 558-6244. For detailed information about the meeting, please contact Ms. Emilie Green, Technical Services Division, at (415) 558-6205.

Please E-mail reid.senescu@arup.com with your brief non-commercial earthquake-related announcement for the upcoming EERI-NC E-mail update. Entries are subject to modification to suit the space available.