



Seismology & Structural Standards Committee
Structural Engineers Association of Northern California

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2009
Location: *DeSimone Consulting Engineers*
180 Sansome Street, 16th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
and on Webex

MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Nicolas Rodrigues
Vice-Chair: Geoff Bomba
Past-Chair: Andy Fennell

In Attendance:

Nic Rodrigues (NR)	nrodrigues@de-simone.com	415-398-5740
Geoff Bomba (GB)	geoff@forell.com	415-837-0700
Jasper Chau	jdchau1@gmail.com	415-369-9100
Chung-Soo Doo	chung-soo.doo@som.com	415-722-9330
Bryan Cortnik	BCortnik@hohbach-lewin.com	
Dave McCormick		
Anh Trong Nguyen	anguyen@de-simone.com	415-398-5740
Raymond Lui (RL)		
Marguertio Bello	mbello@mabse.com	415-903-0555
Wes Ogawa		
Mark Gilligan	mark@gilligan.name	510-549-1906
Mehri Ansari	mehri@ansariinc.com	415-348-8948
via Webex		
Patxi Uriz (PU)	Armen Shamamian (AS)	Ryan Kiersting
James Lai (JL)		

1. Chairs Announcements:

- 1.1. NR announced that everyone is welcome to attend the next State Meeting to be held in San Diego on February 21st and 22nd.
- 1.2. NR announced that in the Seismology website will be updated regularly to reflect more of the current research and charges going on within the committee.

2. Discussion of R-Factor for Concrete Shear Walls SFDBI Position (SB 09-09) - Raymond Liu to Present

- 2.1. SB09-09 issued by SFDBI requires that the Bearing Wall R-factor be used for most concrete shear wall buildings. The document allows the Building Frame R-factor to be used in only rare circumstances, where the tributary load is very small.

Raymond Lui (RL) described the history of building frame vs. bearing wall R-factors and the long-standing dilemma that faces building officials. Through some internal debate, a “few” percent was defined as 5% because it is between a couple and several in dictionary terms. Other definitions such as 200 plf came up as a way to define the “few” percent, but this soon turned out to be inconsistent if wall thicknesses were also taken into consideration. RL pointed out that in order to obtain an R-factor consistent with the Building Frame definition, the system would need to utilize shear walls to resist only seismic loads and gravity elements to support the gravity loads. NR pointed out that placing gravity column too near the shear walls will increase the likelihood of punching shear failure during large seismic events and thus decrease overall gravity system stability. The discussion will be discussed further at the February State Seismology meeting in San Diego.

3. Review of Past Minutes:

- 3.1. Meeting minutes for November were reviewed and approved.

4. Update for Seismology/Building Official Forums

- 4.1. GB updated the committee on the potential forum meeting to be in the south bay. The next step is to identify a speaker at the forum and finalize the times. Building Forum is to be announced in upcoming newsletter.

5. Update of Social/Team Building Event

- 5.1. Bryan Cortnik updated the committee that Patxi Uriz will be speaking at the Social/Team Building Event.

6. Subcommittee Reports

- 6.1. Steel Subcommittee: GB described the Shape Memory Alloy article that will be in the newsletter soon. The subcommittee has been researching this topic and will present the information in the form of the newsletter article. Steven Mahin came to our meeting and discussed current testing braced frames and also a system where wide flange braces that buckle in-plane. One of his students may come speak at a sub-committee meeting.

- 6.2. Code Advisory Committee: No meeting confirmed yet. Alan Robinson to confirm next meeting by early May.
 - 6.3. Wood-Subcommittee: GM summarized the results of the anchor bolt tests and the potential of publishing a Bluebook article. AF to provide graphs for the anchor bolt tests. Current work involves testing of a 7 story building in Japan and an existing building manual for retrofit of cripple wall houses. Hardy Frame recently approved to satisfy AC-322. AF summarizes a few points from the anchor bolts tests and that a paper is still another month away from being completed.
7. **New Business / Open Discussion / Next Meeting**
- 7.1. Board asked for people interested in the soft story condition retrofit project where the retrofits will be steel frames. This will be a joint venture with the Existing Buildings and Seismology committees. GM and MB both volunteered to be involved in the project.
 - 7.2. Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. **The February meeting was subsequently cancelled. Next Meeting will be March 24th, 2009.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicolas Rodrigues
Chair 2008-2009