

2011 Year-End Report

for the **Northern California Chapter** of the
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute



December 2011

This document summarizes the activities conducted by the Northern California Chapter of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI-NC or the Chapter) in 2011.

EERI NC Mission & Goals

As defined in the EERI-NC Strategic Plan, the mission of the Northern California Chapter is to reduce earthquake risk in Northern California by advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering, by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment, and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. To meet the Chapter's mission, the Chapter's goals are to build and **Maintain an Active Chapter** of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute in Northern California and to **Encourage, Promote and Facilitate Earthquake Risk Reduction in Northern California**. The Chapter works to achieve its goals by carrying out specific strategies and related activities.

Membership in 2011

The EERI-NC Chapter had a total of 190 members in 2011 including 159 regular members, 4 student members, 16 retired members, and 11 young professional members.

The board consisted of the following members:

President	Janiele Maffei
Past President	Tom Tobin
Secretary/Treasurer	Heidi Faison
Director	Chris Barkley
Director	Jennifer Donahue
Director	Ayse Hortacsu
Director	Keith Kelson
Director	Justin Moresco
Director	Marko Schotanus

Board meetings were held monthly, including a strategic planning meeting in February 2011.

Chapter Meetings

The following five Chapter meetings were held in 2011. Attendance ranged from 30 – 70 for each meeting, with wide variation in actual attendees each meeting which was most likely because of the varied topics selected. The meetings were organized by the Chapter Meeting Committee consisting of John Liao, Ramin Motamed, and Janice Rodgers. Ken Mark took photos at the February meeting for the archives.

February Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Venue: Arup office, 560 Mission Street, Suite 700, San Francisco

"Panel discussion: sustainability and earthquake engineering", moderated by Ramin Motamed.

Panelists:

- Aaron Binkley, Director, Sustainability Programs at AMB Property Corp.
- Mark Sarkisian, Director of Seismic and Structural Engineering in the San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
- Scott Steinmetz, Assistant Vice President of Corporate Risk Governance at Allianz Fireman's Fund
- Andy Thomsson, Associate at Arup San Francisco office

April Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Venue: Arup office, 560 Mission Street, Suite 700, San Francisco
"Community Action Plan for Seismic Safety" – annual 1906 San Francisco Earthquake meeting
Presenters:

- Laura Samant, Independent Consultant
- Bret Lizundia, Principal at Rutherford Chekene
- John Paxton, John Paxton Real Estate Advisory Services

June Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Venue: ABAG Auditorium, 101 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607 [View Google Map](#)

"Liquefaction: Japan Earthquake and Caltrans design guideline for liquefaction-induced lateral spreading"

Presenters:

- Leslie F. Harder, Jr, Senior Water Resources Technical Advisor, HDR
- Thomas Shantz, Senior Research Engineer, Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation

October Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Venue: URS Corp, 1 Montgomery Street, San Francisco

"Comparison of site-specific hazard analysis with code suggested seismic design parameters, and discussion of the latest changes in ASCE7-10/CBC 2010"

Presenters:

- Ramin Golesorkhi, Treadwell & Rollo

December Holiday Party

Wednesday December 14, 2011

Venue: Marines' Memorial Club, Heritage Room, 609 Sutter St., San Francisco

"Party and Chapter Awards Presentation"

Communication Strategies: Website, Email Newsletter, DropBox, Brochure, and Facebook

In mid-2009, the Chapter launched a new website (<http://www.eerinc.org/>) that is hosted on the EERI national server and is easily managed by the Word Press content management system. This website continues to serve as a tool for posting events and news about the Chapter.

Justin Moresco, director-at-large, served in 2011 as the editor of the EERI NC Chapter e-newsletter. This newsletter is sent quarterly at the start of February, May, August, and November. It has a large list of 590 active contacts within the total of 642 subscribers (as of Nov 10, 2011). These large numbers can be attributed to the efforts of Justin to seek, gather, and compile several interesting articles from various authors along with announcements each quarter.

To streamline storage of board documents in 2011, Heidi Faison, secretary-treasurer, implemented a DropBox folder for board documents. Dropbox is a free service that allows users to share files easily and automatically between many computers, phones and the Dropbox website (www.dropbox.com). All members of the board were able to create free accounts and access all Chapter files including meeting minutes, policy documents, letter template files, election records, etc. This will allow for easy maintenance of the Chapter's archived and active files through transitions of board members.

Marko Schotanus, director-at-large, created an EERI-NC Chapter informational tri-fold brochure in mid-2011. It was printed for distribution at chapter meetings and other sponsored functions of the Chapter. It is hoped that this will be yet another resource to draw new members to the Chapter.

Jennifer Donahue, director-at-large, created an EERI-NC Chapter Facebook page in mid-2011. This will allow the Chapter to communicate with members who prefer communication and updates through the facebook interface. It provides yet another mechanism to reach the membership base. The number of people who "like" the EERI-NC Chapter is growing!

Hayward Fault Scenario

In 2008 the Chapter was funded by USGS to make an update for the 1996 Hayward Fault Scenario. Janiele Maffei was selected to lead this project in 2009. In May 2011, the final updated Hayward Fault Scenario document titled "*THE COMING BAY AREA EARTHQUAKE: 2010 Update of Scenario for a Magnitude 7.0 Earthquake on the Hayward Fault*" was finished and posted on the EERI-NC website. Further efforts in 2012 related to this project will include:

- Formation of a committee to disseminate the information from the report to various local stakeholders and decision makers.
- Three versions of ppt slides for future use by chapter members will be posted on the EERI-NC website. These presentation variations will be targeted for various levels of audiences but will have a positive and consistent message, and will include notes for presenters to refer to when preparing to give the presentation.
- A video recording of the presentations will be posted on the website.
- A formal launch will be done including a press release to Bay Area papers & video media.

Adopt-A-City Project

As an outcome of the strategic planning meeting, the Board decided to launch a new initiative called the "Adopt-A-City" program. The initiative's goal is to engage in a coordinated effort to improve understanding of the risk, vulnerability and impact of a future earthquake for a selected city along the Hayward Fault, and to empower the stakeholders within that city to develop comprehensive and realistic measures to mitigate their earthquake risk. The first city selected was Albany.

To achieve its goal of improved risk awareness and empowerment of stakeholders, work is underway to activate Chapter members to join a committee for Albany that will:

- A. Inform –provide clear technical information and background to the stakeholders so that they understand their risk, vulnerability and potential earthquake losses, using language and terms understood by the stakeholders.
- B. Inspire stakeholders to take action to reduce their local risk.
- C. Assist – provide documents, resources, guidance and expertise to the stakeholders while they develop their action plan and complete the risk mitigation process. Be the city's long-term technical resource and link to additional information by using the broad diversity of expertise within the chapter.

The committee currently consists of Keith Knudson and Ken Mark.

More specifically, the committee will be charged with the following tasks:

Task 1: Identify strengths and vulnerabilities in Albany.

- What mitigation is already completed?
- What areas need more work or are at particularly high risk?
- What reports and other resources provide statistics and data already that can quantify these vulnerabilities?
- Find and post the city's general plan.
- Find and post the city's seismic safety element.
- Use census information and other sources to identify the economic & demographic characteristics of the city.
- Create a Hazus run for the city, if possible.
- Identify the seismic hazard to the city including known faults, pga's, etc.
- Provide maps of the geologic risks to the city.
- Gather any ABAG or FEMA studies for the city.

Task 2: Estimate the consequences to their risk to Albany based on the Hayward Fault Scenario.

- What will be the extent of damage to their vulnerable items?
- What effect will these vulnerabilities have on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural fabric of the city?

Task 3: Communicate the vulnerability and consequences to several stakeholder groups.

- What are the stakeholder groups (i.e., neighborhood groups, building owners, school board, city council, etc.) that are related to this topic area?

- Which of the related stakeholders has the greatest opportunity to effect change?
- What can the stakeholders do to mitigate this problem?
- Who should the stakeholders contact to encourage action?
- What are some possible next steps?
- What resources may be useful to help them mitigate this risk?

Task 4: Collate all the information gathered so far by the initiative into a comprehensive resource that can be presented to the City Council to give an overview of their city's risk, vulnerability and impact from future earthquakes. This resource may include the following items: a summary report of findings, a power point presentation covering all risk areas investigated by the committees (each committee will develop some slides), and a website of resources (successful case studies for other jurisdictions, sample ordinances, etc.) that the council can use to start their mitigation effort. The chapter will also offer the City Council future help to create and achieve a mitigation plan.

It is hoped that this initiative will gain further traction for the City of Albany in 2012. This will be an active area of Chapter efforts in 2012.

2011 Election Results

The 2011 election was held from Sept 16 – October 18 using the LimeSurvey software. Arrietta Chakos, Dick McCarthy, and Chris Rojahn (chair) served on the nominating committee. Chris Barkely, Justin Moresco, and Dick McCarthy tallied votes. Seventy-four chapter members completed their online ballots to elect a President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, and 3 Directors at Large. The winners were:

- Heidi Faison – President-Elect
- Marko Schotanus – Secretary-Treasurer
- Danielle Hutchings – Director-at-large
- Laurence Kornfield – Director-at-large
- Laura Samant – Director-at-large

Runner's up were Tracy Johnson and Charles Real. The newly elected board members joined the board officially at the December 14 Board Meeting (due to the emergency cancelation of the November 10 Board Meeting).

2011 "Innovation and Exemplary Practice in Earthquake Risk Reduction" Award Winners

Each year the chapter gives two awards, to an individual and an institution, in recognition of their hard work and dedication towards the reduction of seismic risk in Northern California. Thalia Anagnos, Jeanne Perkins, Larry Porter, and Joan MacQuarrie (chair) served on the nominating committee. The Chapter presented its 2011 "Innovation and Exemplary Practice in Earthquake Risk Reduction" awards during the December 14 Holiday Party at Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco. The winners were:

- Laurence M. Kornfield
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District