

Subject: Mammoth Lake Earthquake
 May 25, 1980, 9:33 AM

June 10, 1980

CLEARING HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Soon after the earthquake, the Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) personnel left for Mammoth Lake. On May 26, 1980, the Clearing House was opened at the Mammoth Lake Volunteer Fire Station under the direction of Dr. Roger Sherbourne of DMG. Other people who checked in at the Clearing House include:

- University of Southern California Jim Anderson
 Tom Heaton
- California Institute of Technology Alan Gillespie
 John Jones
 Raul Rellés
 Albert Lin
- U.S.G.S. Malcolm Clak
 and others
- L.A. Water and Power
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Nevada, Reno

The Office of Emergency Services had two structural engineers flown in but they never registered at the Clearing House. There were probably others who did not register.

Two meetings were held at the Clearing House:

- May 27 attended by 20± people
- May 28 attended by 50+ people

The Clearing House was effectively closed on May 29, 1980.

STRONG MOTION INSTRUMENTATION

Dr. Check Turpin of DMG provided the following information:

There were four permanent instruments installed prior to the earthquake in the Mammoth Lake area.

1. Convict Creek Aquatic Research Station. Peak accelerations of 0.46 g horizontal and 0.43 g vertical were recorded.
2. Mammoth Lake High School Gymnasium. Peak accelerations of significant values were recorded. (Accelerations in excess of 0.05 g are considered significant.)
3. Long Valley Dam - Crest of Dam. Significant accelerations were recorded.
4. Long Valley Dam - Dam Abutment. Significant accelerations were recorded.

On May 26, 1980, the Division of Mines and Geology installed two temporary instruments. One was installed at the Mono County Sheriff Substation and the other was installed at a private residence near Hilton Creek.

DMG is in the process of preparing a preliminary report and is expected to release this report shortly. I will forward a copy of this report to you directly. Copies may also be obtained from Mr. John Ragsdale (DMG) directly.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Schools and Hospitals - There is apparently no structural damage of significance; however, there is some non-structural damage (ceiling damage, light fixtures, etc.). Some cracking in floor slabs at Mammoth Lake Elementary School occurred.

Long Valley Dam - There are longitudinal cracks in the paved road across the dam. However, Jim Leigh of the Safety of Dams, Department of Water Resources, told me this is only surface cracking and no serious cracking or problem is anticipated.

SACRAMENTO AREA

The May 25 and 26 earthquake shock waves were felt in the Sacramento area; however, no damage was reported.

Respectfully submitted,



Ajit S. Virdee

EFFECTS OF MAY 1980, MAMMOTH LAKE EARTHQUAKES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Andrew B. Cunningham

The Mammoth Lake earthquake at 7:50 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27th, was felt by most persons on the 9th floor of the Sheraton Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco. The long period, rocking motions lasted about 20 seconds. The earthquake was also felt at mid-height (near the 21st floor) of the nearby Wells Fargo building. Other highrise buildings that we contacted had nothing to report. A KCBS newscaster said he had heard from many people who had felt the Tuesday morning earthquake in downtown San Francisco but further details were not available. No information was obtained on perception in San Francisco of the two large Mammoth Lake earthquakes on Saturday, May 25th.