

UCSD structural engineers Gilbert Hegemier, M.J. Nigel Priestley and Frieder Seible, who designed the retrofit for California bridges release their research results on Jan.27 at special press briefing

January 26, 1994

MEDIA ALERT

EVENT: In the first public release of their research results, UCSD structural engineers--who designed the retrofit for California bridges and who investigated freeway bridge failures in Los Angeles following the January 17th earthquake-- will hold a special press briefing at UCSD. California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Dean Dunphy--formally representing Gov. Wilson--will address the state's preparedness for earthquakes and describe how research is helping California improve designs and create new materials for bridges and buildings.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, January 27, 11 a.m-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Center for Magnetic Recording Research auditorium.

UCSD campus. Parking will be reserved. (See attached map.)

DESCRIPTION: M. J. Nigel Priestley, from UCSD's Charles Lee Powell Structures Laboratory--the primary bridge retrofit resource for Caltrans--will present results of an intense field investigation of Los Angeles/Northridge freeway bridges that failed and survived under earthquake ground motion.

His discussion will include a detailed description of how bridges failed, the performance of structures that were retrofitted using techniques largely designed at UCSD, and what can be done in the future to prevent bridge failures.

Slides of freeway bridges will be shown to illustrate why some bridges failed and others held up. Following a presentation, Priestley will be joined by Secretary Dunphy, Gil Hegemier and Frieder Seible to answer questions from the media.

VISUALS:

*Photos will be made available depicting Northridge bridge columns that failed and those that survived.

*A 3/4" video of shake table tests performed in the UCSD laboratory, depicting highway columns before and after retrofitting, will also be made available to television reporters.

*A to-scale model of a retrofitted bridge column will be available in the structures lab.

*Graphics detailing what happens to bridge columns during an earthquake will be provided.

SPEAKERS: Robert Conn, dean, UCSD School of Engineering; Dean Dunphy, state Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing; chairman of the Governor's Transportation Task Force dealing with the Los Angeles earthquake; Gilbert A. Hegemier, professor of structural engineering and director of the Charles Lee Powell laboratory; M. J. Nigel Priestley, professor of structural engineering; Frieder Seible, professor of structural engineering and co-director of the Charles Lee Powell laboratory.

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