

HISTORY
of the
STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION
of
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



**Safer Buildings Through
Structural Engineering**

The Structural Engineers Association of Southern California is a professional organization of Civil and Structural Engineers which also includes affiliated construction industry members and students. The association provides its members with the forum, the educational opportunities and the challenge to meet high standards of engineering excellence and ethical and professional conduct in the design of structures and facilities within the broader field of civil engineering.

The Structural Engineers Association of Southern California was established in 1929 by a small group of Southern California engineers in the private practice of structural engineering. The purpose of the group was to promote the profession of structural engineering and to provide for the discussion of common problems; ethical, technical and economic.

Shortly after its formation, the Association expanded both its purpose and its scope of membership. Each year since the Association has seen a substantial increase in membership and an increased program of activities and of service, both to its members and to the public.

Today SEAOSC has over 1400 members which represent all phases of the construction industry. Its membership consists primarily of engineers involved with design and research in Southern California and throughout the world. The Association has regular monthly meetings to keep the members informed of the latest technology, research and construction methods.

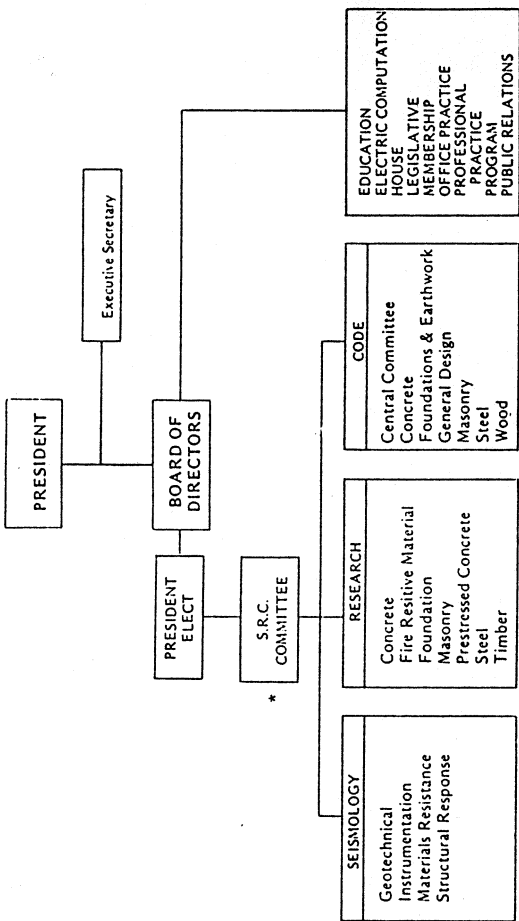
The goal of the Structural Engineers Association has been to establish high professional standards to advance the science of structural engineering and to provide the public with safe and economical buildings. Our members have joined the Association to assist in fulfilling those goals and to maintain their skills and to keep current with the state of the art of structural engineering.

The Structural Engineers Association combines the talents of some of California's most qualified research engineers with engineers in design, construction and government to advance the quality of our profession. Committees review proposed codes and standards for local, state and national agencies, develop new codes and identify areas in which further research is necessary. Committees have worked towards the passage of legislation in such fields as the regulation of the construction of both public and private schools, hospitals, institutional buildings, high rise and the many other type of buildings.

Following is an organizational chart of the committees within our organization. These committees are designed to assist reaching goals of the association.

S.E.A.O.S.C.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION



*S.R.C. Committee is Steering Committee for the Seismology Research and Code Committees

The Seismology Committee is a statewide committee with delegates from each of the four state associations. More than 120 members participate in the SEAOSC Seismology Committee and are assigned to activities in the following standing sub-committees: (1) Structural Response; (2) Materials Resistance; (3) Geotechnical and (4) Instrumentation.

The scope of activities of the Seismology Committee includes the following:

1. Conduct continuous study of earthquake resistive design requirements to update the "Recommended Lateral Force Requirements and Commentary" better known as the Blue Book. This publication was first published in 1960 and has undergone several major revisions. The last revision was published in 1980.
2. Serve as a resource to SEAOSC memberships on current developments in seismic design criteria.

Since 1980, the Seismology Committee has been charged with the re-write of the "Recommended Lateral Force Requirements" which include provisions on the equivalent static force procedures and dynamic response analysis as well as material resistance strengths. The new Blue Book and Commentary will be published in 1987.

The Code Committee is another statewide committee with delegates from each of the four state associations. The Central Committee of SEAOSC Code Committee, composed of representatives from the practicing engineers, various industries and governmental agencies, oversees the actions and recommendations of six standing subcommittees: (1) General Design, (2) Masonry, (3) Wood, (4) Concrete, (5) Steel, (6) Foundation and Earthwork.

The scope of activities of the Code Committee includes the following:

1. Review and make recommendations on proposed Code changes to the Uniform Building code, Los Angeles City and County Building Codes, OSA school and hospital codes, and other code agencies on request.
2. Consider and make recommendations on instituting proposed code changes as directed by the SRC Steering Committee.
3. Serve as a resource to local code agencies on interpretations of the technical provision of the building codes.

In recent years, the Code Committee has participated in instituting changes to the Wind provisions in 1982 and 1985 UBC. The Committee also wrote the slender wall code provisions on both masonry and concrete wall panels.

Another active committee is the Research Committee. It is composed of seven standing subcommittees (1) Foundation, (2) Prestressed Concrete, (3) Steel, (4) Masonry, (5) Concrete, (6) Timber and (7) New Structural Materials. This committee contributes directly to the Code Committee to initiate Building Code changes.

The scope of the Research Committee includes the following:

Initiate new research projects with approval of the Seismology, Research, Code (SRC) Steering Committee.

Review technical publications building code changes and proposed test programs involving research as approved by the SRC Committee.

Cooperate with research activities of code agencies.

The Legislative Committee sends delegates to regular meetings in Sacramento and the California Legislative Council of Professional Engineers. The Committee co-ordinates legislative reports with the Consulting Engineers Association of California, American Institute of Architects and California Council of Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors to initiate and review legislation relative to Limiting Liability, Registration Law, and regulation of the design of public and private structures as related to the practice of structural engineering.

The Education Committee is a very important and active committee. It provides a liaison between the Association and engineering students on the many campuses of colleges and universities in Southern California. We encourage students to participate in our Association activities as Student Members, and to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Student Night occurs at the March meeting each year. Engineering students, generally juniors and seniors, attend as guests of the Association members. Increasing interest in this event has been shown in recent years. Our members, and particularly college faculty members, have contributed enthusiasm and encouragement to the students. This has resulted in great benefits to them and the Association.

The Hazardous Building Committee, an Ad-Hoc Committee, was established to develop additional criteria for unreinforced masonry structures. These unreinforced masonry structures are governed by the new Division 88 of the Los Angeles Building Code. Division 88 established minimum earthquake standards for pre-1934 unreinforced masonry bearing wall buildings.

The Hazardous Building Committee, through the voluntary efforts of the Association members and contributions from members supported the necessary research to assist the City of Los Angeles in the preparation of a consensus code. The Committee helped determine a method of testing and designing with the existing materials in these pre-1934 buildings.

The Structural Engineers Association of Southern California Ad-Hoc Committee on Hazardous Buildings continually reviews Division 88 requirements, advising the City of Los Angeles as to the latest research and thinking and/or clarification of Division 88.

A joint ACI-SEAOSC Task Committee, known as the Slender Wall Committee was formed in the fall of 1980 to develop, perform and evaluate tests of slender walls. Through the volunteer efforts and contributions of structural engineers, contractors, material manufacturers and construction

industry related organizations, a test program was performed. A total of 30 full scale wall panels were built and tested for stability under vertical and horizontal loads, such as expected from earthquakes. The 24 foot high panels were constructed from reinforced concrete, concrete masonry units, brick and clay block materials.

The committee has evaluated the test, formulated design methods and has prepared its final report which is now available from SEAOSC. The results and recommendations of this program will aid in establishing design standards for tall slender walls.

SEAOSC has many other important committees, some serving for the betterment of the Association, the Electronic Computation, House and Membership Committees. Others serve in the educational process of engineering, Office Practice, Professional Practice, Program and Public Relations Committees. The Board, at its request can create special Ad-Hoc Committees, such as the Base Isolation Committee, who are charged with the research, review and analysis of Base Isolation.

SEAOSC has established a distinguished record of public service to the community by being instrumental in developing concepts and guidelines for the design of buildings in California. Its members are considered among the world's leaders in seismic design.

The undeniable success of the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California in its efforts to serve the profession and the public stem primarily from volunteer commitment of its membership, who over the past half century have worked diligently toward the betterment of the structural engineering profession.

For further information write or call:

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