

State of California  
Seismic Safety Commission

Item XIII-2

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commission

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Subject: Update on Shake Table and Fire Tests of a Building at UC San Diego

The \$5+ million project at UC San Diego (UCSD) for which the Commission provided approximately \$360,000 began its test sequence last week. A five story building has been constructed on a shaking table and will be subjected to a series of increasing ground motions over the next several weeks followed by fire and smoke spread tests in May.

UCSD released a 12 minute teaser video in March using Commission funding. That video has been viewed and used by a wide variety of stakeholders, media and the general public. The video and a press release is at:

[http://www.scsa.ca.gov/media/20120412\\_seismic.shtml](http://www.scsa.ca.gov/media/20120412_seismic.shtml)

On April 17, UCSD held a media outreach event during which the project received news coverage from all the major national television stations, several major newspapers, and hundreds of other smaller news feeds. Chairman Michael Gardner, Commissioner Tim Strack, and Executive Director Dick McCarthy were featured prominently in many of the media reports.

During the last earthquake, a scaled-down version of a 2010 Chile earthquake recording, one of the seals in the pressurized oil system that powers the shaking table leaked resulting in a delay of at least a week.

UCSD is using this delay to implement some further enhancements to the interiors of the test building. The Commission is helping to solicit donors of mannequins that are normally used for fire rescue training to be placed in hospital beds, and medical contents to stock the racks and cabinets in the intensive care unit.

This sequence of tests will help calibrate our building codes and regulations and improve our understanding of how complex building systems interact during earthquakes and how damage can compromise fire resistance.