



Just the Facts: Tower Foundation Concrete

In 2011, the Sacramento Bee reported that a Caltrans technician falsified test data on several structures in California, none of which were the Bay Bridge.

As the technician had performed some tests on the tower foundation of the Bay Bridge, the Department conducted an exhaustive review of construction and testing records, and prepared a report documenting the conclusions of the review. The review concluded that there were no issues associated with concrete in the tower foundation.

The California State Auditor found no evidence that this rogue inspector falsified test results from the Bay Bridge. The Toll Bridge Seismic Safety Peer Review Panel and the Federal Highway Administration reviewed the foundation concrete report prepared by the Department and confirmed the structure is safe.

The employee and his supervisor were terminated.

In 2012, Caltrans called on the Sacramento Bee to retract a story that falsely claimed Caltrans was prevented from doing further examination or repair. The article also falsely asserted a bridge pile had “inferior concrete,” without providing any evidence to support the assertion.

Further Reading

Toll Bridge Seismic Safety Peer Review Panel SAS T1 Foundation Review
<http://baybridgeinfo.org/sites/default/files/pdf/SAS%20Tower%20Base%20Report.pdf>

Peer Review Document: T1 Foundation Review
<http://baybridgeinfo.org/quality-assurance#a1>