

ATC-38

Database on the Performance of Structures Near Strong-Motion Recordings: 1994 Northridge, California, Earthquake

by

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Preface

In the weeks and months following the damaging 1994 Northridge, California, earthquake, the Applied Technology Council (ATC) was awarded a series of contracts to document systematically the characteristics and performance of buildings in the vicinity of sites where strong ground-motion data had been recorded. Initial funding was provided by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) through the ongoing ATC-35 project, and subsequent supplemental funding was provided by the Southern California Earthquake Center, the California Office of Emergency Services (through an existing contract with EQE International), and the Institute for Business and Home Safety.

The project design called for (1) development of a standardized survey form to document the characteristics and performance of buildings affected by strong ground shaking; (2) training of licensed structural and civil engineers to conduct the surveys; (3) selection of areas to be surveyed near strong-motion recording sites; (4) surveying of buildings near the selected strong-motion recording sites; (5) design and development of a database containing the survey data; and (6) development and publication of a report documenting the project approach and results.

The ATC project team surveyed 530 buildings located in the vicinity (i.e., within 1000 feet) of 31 strong-motion recording stations in the Los Angeles area. The data, survey procedures, and preliminary analysis of the data are described in this report. The report also contains results from a separate survey to obtain data on repair costs and the loss of function of commercial buildings.

The data from both surveys are provided in their entirety on a CD-ROM accompanying this report.

The Applied Technology Council gratefully acknowledges the wide range of personnel involved in developing the ATC-38 data and report. The project concept was developed by Christopher Rojahn (Principal Investigator), Chris D. Poland and Charles Scawthorn (Co-Principal Investigators), in consultation with Al Lindh and Mehmet Celebi of the USGS. Robert A. Bruce designed the survey form, and Steven K. Harris and Evan Reis served as lead surveyors and trainers of other survey personnel: Michael Baltay, Hong Cao, Michael Cochran, Rami Elhassan, Martin Graves, Adam Greco, Jon Heintz, James A. Hill, Saad Ibrahim, S. S. Ivanovic, Tom Kamei, Donald R. Kay, Roy Lobo, Rob Onishi, Raymond S. Pugliesi, Jeff Soulages, Herbert Stockinger, Maria Todorovska, Brian Unsderfer, and George Zorappal. Stephanie A. King designed and developed the survey database, and prepared this report. ATC staff entered and verified the data. Ronald T. Eguchi and Stephanie Chang carried out a separately funded survey of commercial establishments to obtain data on repair costs and loss of function and graciously turned the data over to ATC for inclusion with this report. The affiliations of these individuals are provided in the list of Project Participants.

Christopher Rojahn
ATC Executive Director

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