



San Diego County Chapter

# Defining the Moving Edge 20 years ago

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# SeaCliff Story 1996

In 1995 my client purchased SeaCliff above the Seven Caves for \$5.3 million, the highest real estate sale that year in La Jolla and he wanted me to design a house as close to the bluff edge as possible so people could not see him but he could see the ocean with breath taking views up the north coast. He owned the Cave Store and the tunnel to the Sunny Jim Cave which was directly under the site.





"He bought it to explore it's history and the history of the site ... advance historic preservation as a cultural and economic investment in delicate balance through education .... to enjoy the process"



We decided to let **science** tell the story of SeaCliff and not take the adversarial road with the city to determine where the coastal bluff edge was located.

## COASTAL BLUFF CONFERENCE

So we mapped the sea caves under the site to engage a conversation on coastal bluff erosion and **defining the moving edge** with oceanographers, geologists, paleontologist, civil engineers, surveyors, architects, lawyers, code officials, politicians and the community.

## let geology tell the story

These graphics are a result of those conversations and my professional curiosity.

Thanks to Tom Demere, paleontologist, San Diego Natural History Museum for advice and Paul Horn, infographic illustrator.

## **DIAGRAM I-1: COASTAL BLUFF**



### Pleistocene

#### **LAJOLLA** Upper Cretaceous COAST WALK/ SEA CLIFF Seven Caves LA JOLLA COASTWALK/ SEA CLIFF Seven Caves ▼ Shoreline risk assessment Low risk Adequate setback Recreationally sensitive Paleo sea cliff position when 105,000 yr.old terrace was cut ▼ Shoreline risk assessment Low risk Adequate setback Recreationally sensitive Paleo sea cliff position when 105,000 yr.old terrace was cut Top of modern sea cliff (bluff edge) Top of modern se cliff (bluffedge) Remains of 105,000 yr. abrasion pl Kpl Point Loma Formation 105,000 yr. old terrace SEA CAVE 105,000 yr.old abrasion platform 6 29 9 Illustration #10

Tom Rockwell, Phd Geology SDSU Mike Hart, Engineering Geologist Les Reed, Geotechnical Engineering Inc



L 1<sup>30</sup>

120

110

100

*o*0 80

70

60

50

40

30

20 10

Illustration #10

The City of San Diego was building an observation deck down on Goldfish Point. green circle

I asked the planner where the coastal bluff edge was and he pointed to the top of the bluff next to the existing house. **red circle** 

Somehow the city had a different setback then the private sector.





## SENSITIVE COASTAL BLUFFS

▼ Steep escarpment generally 200% Gullies Sea caves





Illustration A





#### Illustration #12







▼ Unstable bluff with 40' setback Steep escarpment



Illustration B



Illustration #8

500

250

6.29.97

1,00



# Solana Beach

Del Mar

**Torrey Pines** 



So, what will happen when the sea level rises and the storm surge erosion eats away at the base of these bluffs?





Illustration #5





![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

 Shoreline risk assessment High risk Unfavorable geology Inadequate and adequate setback

![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

Illustration #1

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### LEUCADIA BATIQUIIOS LAGOON Moonlight Beach

 Shoreline Atlas Risk assessment High to moderate risk Unfavorable geology Inadequate and adequate setback Inadequate design

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

Illustration #2

![](_page_30_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

So, what happens when the earth starts shaking?

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

San Diego / Tijuana Earthquake Planning Scenario Update

# M 6.9 on the Rose Canyon Fault

![](_page_34_Picture_3.jpeg)

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute Rose Canyon Fault Ruptures at 10:10 am October 20, 2017

## **Design Earthquake**

M 6.9 Crustal Strike Slip Right Lateral

# Surface Rupture

Southeast - South Offshore - LJ-OT-SD Silver Strand Length 69 km ( 43 miles) Slip 2 m max ( 6.6 ft Horizontal) Unilateral Rupture Directly Towards Tijuana

![](_page_35_Picture_5.jpeg)

Recurrence Interval 1000 years 2mm/yr Slip Rate (0.08 inches)

![](_page_35_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response

15 minutes after earthquake

# **Estimates**

100 - 1000 Fatalities

# \$10 -100 billion in economic loss

![](_page_36_Picture_6.jpeg)

Extensive damage is probable and the Estimated economic losses are 0-3% GDP of the United States. Past events with this alert level have required a national or international level response. Orange alert level for shaking-related

Version 1 Created: 15 minutes, 0 seconds after earthquake Estimated Economic Losses

ANSS

USAID

PAGER

![](_page_36_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### Estimated Population Exposed to Earthquake Shaking

ESTIMATED F EXPOSURE	POPULATION (k = x1000)	*	*	*	114k*	1,195k	2,772k	1,048k	18k	0
ESTIMATED MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY		I	-	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Х+
PERCEIVE	O SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL	Resistant Structures	none	none	none	V. Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy
DAMAGE	Vulnerable Structures	none	none	none	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy	V. Heavy

\*Estimated exposure only includes population within the map area Population Exposure

population per 1 sq. km from Landscan Structures:

![](_page_36_Figure_14.jpeg)

Overall, the population in this region resides in structures that are highly resistant to earthquake shaking, though some vulnerable structures exist. The predominant vulnerable building types are reinforced masonry and reinforced concrete frame construction.

#### Historical Earthquakes (with MMI levels):

		-	-			
	Date	Dist.	Mag.	Max S	Shaking	
I	(UTC)	(km)		MMI(#)	Deaths	
	1979-10-15	158	6.5	IX(3k)	0	
1	1987-10-01	139	5.9	VIII(20k)	8	
	1994-01-17	172	6.7	IX(181k)	33	
1						

Recent earthquakes in this area have caused secondary hazards such as landslides and liquefaction that might have contributed to losses.

#### Selected City Exposure from GeoNames.org

MMI	City	Population
VIII	San Diego	1,307k
VIII	Coronado	19k
VIII	Imperial Beach	26k
VIII	Encinitas	60k
VIII	Solana Beach	13k
VIII	Del Mar	4k
VIII	Tijuana	1,376k
VII	Chula Vista	244k
VII	Carlsbad	105k
VII	Oceanside	167k
VI	Escondido	144k
old citie	es appear on map	(k = x1000

PAGER content is automatically generated, and only considers losses due to structural damage. Limitations of input data, shaking estimates, and loss models may add uncertainty.

# SAN DIEGO GEOLOGY

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

# thank you for listening