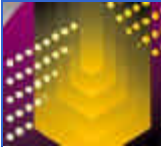


# THE UPDATE

Volume 2  
Number 2  
February, 2006



*The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.*



## **SAN FRANCISCO BUILDINGS STILL REMAIN AT RISK**

***This April San Francisco will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the terrible earthquake and fire that devastated the city in 1906. According to a 2003 assessment of its quake-vulnerable buildings as much as 35% of the city's private buildings and up to 70% of its wooden housing could still be lost to a major fire or earthquake in spite of a century of improved building design. Soft "first story" buildings, such as retail spaces with apartments above, single family homes built over garages, many of the city's high-end apartment and condominium buildings with large lobbies and other open spaces on the first floor now appear by experts to be more susceptible to collapse than earlier thought.***



## **NSF EFFORTS TO TEST FAILED LEVEE SOILS DELAYED**

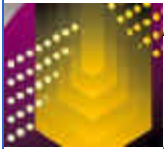
***With little more than 3 months remaining before the start of hurricane season, investigators funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the failed levee system in New Orleans were quoted earlier this month as frustrated with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) over its refusal to release data needed to fully grasp the problem. Corps officials asked for their safety plans when NSF investigators first arrived at the 17th St. Canal site essentially blocking their access. This NSF officials claim following 2 prior weeks of negotiations the Corps never mentioned that a safety plan before entry to its construction site was required. The Corps primarily responsible for rebuilding the levees has now launched its own probe focusing on why the levees failed claiming NSF "was too eager to jump to conclusions"; leaving NSF officials further frustrated in its efforts to test the soil currently being re-used by the Corps to rebuild the levees.***



## **COSTS FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY UNCERTAIN**

***U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel Bodman***

**stated earlier this month ,at a Platts energy conference, that DOE was modifying it's earlier projected completion date and cost( estimated in 2001 at \$ 60 Billion) for it's planned nuclear waste facility at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. Originally expected by DOE to be operational in 1998, DOE now believes that monies collected from nuclear utilities since the 1980's might not be sufficient to pay for the project, in view of subsequent court decisions compelling stricter EPA standards regarding radioactive waste leakage and delays from alleged substandard research work by the U.S. Geological Survey.**



#### **EXPLORING PRESIDENT'S 2007 \$ 2.7 TRILLION BUDGET**

**The Bush administration's announced 2007 budget earlier this month was both good news and not so good news for many in the U.S. construction industry. While highway and transit funding are in line or ahead of their respective departmental requests; funding for aviation projects and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers falls below what was requested. That may help explain some of the Corps "sensitivity" reported above with other governmental funded agencies e.g. NSF's perceived " honing in" on it's on-going levee re-construction project, potentially resulting in "uncertain outcomes" during a time constrained period for completion of it's current restoration efforts.**

The above information does not represent the opinions of Meckler Forensic Group or any of its clients. It is offered to inform on matters that may directly or indirectly affect potential litigation issues or collateral interests. If any of your colleagues would also like to receive a copy or for any reason you do not wish to receive this mailing in the future , please send an e-mail to [UPDATE@mforensicgroup.com](mailto:UPDATE@mforensicgroup.com). For additional details about us, please consult our Meckler Forensic Group Internet directory listing at [www.jurispro.com](http://www.jurispro.com) or visit our website at [www.mforensicgroup.com](http://www.mforensicgroup.com)

### **Meckler Forensic Group**

Address	10573 West Pico Blvd. #200 Los Angeles, CA. 90064	200 2nd Ave. South #204 St. Petersburg, FL. 33701
Phone	(310)913-3864	(800)556-1932
FAX	(800)210-6244	(800)308-5811
EMail	<a href="mailto:mmeckler@mforensicgroup.com">mmeckler@mforensicgroup.com</a>	
URL	<a href="http://www.mforensicgoup.com">http://www.mforensicgoup.com</a>	