

Chris D. Poland

Structural Engineer and Senior Principal
Chairman, CEO



Education

B.S. Summa Cum Laude, Mathematics,
University of Redlands, 1972

M.S. Structural Engineering, Stanford University, 1974

Registration

California – Civil Engineer, 1977
License No. 27243

California – Structural Engineer, 1980
License No. 2336

Hawaii – Structural Engineer, 1983
License No. 5428

Professional Affiliations

Chairman, National Earthquake Hazard Reduction
Program Advisory Committee
Chairman, Seismic Mitigation Committee, San Francisco
Planning and Urban Research Association
Chairman, Strong Motion Advisory Committee, Strong
Motion Instrumentation Program, California Seismic
Safety Commission
Chairman, Standards Committee on Seismic
Rehabilitation, American Society of Civil Engineers
Chairman, Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory
Committee on Structural Safety, Washington, DC
Executive Committee, Council of American Structural
Engineers
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, President,
2001-2002, Honorary Member, 1995
Structural Engineers Association of Northern California,
College of Fellows, 2003
Seismological Society of America
American Institute of Architects

Chris Poland's career includes a broad range of structural engineering projects and a wide variety of professional activities. These include new design work, seismic analysis, structural evaluation, strengthening of existing buildings, failure analysis work, historic preservation, and research activities. He has taken an active role in advancing the practice of structural engineering through public advocacy, participating in numerous professional associations, regularly publishing technical papers, and presenting his findings in professional forums. Additionally, he has participated in the development of state and federal standards.

Chris serves as CEO of the firm. He served as President and CEO of Degenkolb Engineers from 1990 to 2008, CFO from 1985 to 1996, and Chairman since 2001. Since 1985, Degenkolb has grown 400% through deliberate, strategic planning and consistent operations. There are now more than 140 employees in the six west coast offices.

Chris is the immediate past President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), where he also served as Director/Secretary-Treasurer for 6 years. On behalf of EERI, he is currently working with the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Science, Space, and Technology on the Reauthorization of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act. He chaired the EERI/SSA/OES 2006 Annual conference that drew more than 3,000 professionals to San Francisco in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Bay Area earthquake.

Degenkolb Engineers

235 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California 94104-2908

www.degenkolb.com

500
SUITE

415

392.6952 phone
981.3157 fax

Chris D. Poland

Relevant Experience

He has participated in numerous research projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Geological Service, the National Institute of Standards/Technology (NIST), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This research has contributed, among other things, to the development of federal standards for seismic evaluations and mitigation (an NIST study), and numerous guidelines related to earthquake hazard reduction activities such as the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Series Program (NEHRP) Handbooks for the seismic evaluation of existing buildings (FEMA 178, etc.).

Chris served as Principal Investigator of the American Society of Civil Engineers project team for the update of FEMA 273, which has been published as the ASCE 41, Standard for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings. He also participated as a member of the project team for the update of FEMA 178, which has been published as ASCE 31.

Chris was the Chairman of the Vision 2000 Codes Committee of the Structural Engineers Association of California. Under his leadership, a 500 page document entitled Performance Based Seismic Engineering of Buildings: Interim Recommendations was published in 1995. The work, sponsored by FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services, defines the conceptual framework for future seismic codes that will permit performance-based engineering. This work is currently referenced worldwide.

Career Highlights

OSHPD Report on the Impact of the Loma Prieta Earthquake on Bay Area Hospitals

Mitchell Earth Sciences Building, Seismic Evaluation, Stanford University, Stanford, California

Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Seismic Retrofit and Expansion, Stanford University, Stanford, California

Stanford Memorial Church, Earthquake Damage Repair, Seismic Retrofit, Stanford University, Stanford, California

ATC-14 Evaluating the Seismic Resistance of Existing Buildings, Principal Author

ATC-21 and 22, Co-Principal Investigator

ATC-28, Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings—Phase 1: Issues Identification and Resolution. Project Engineering Panel Member.

Murrah Building Study

Memorial Chapel, Seismic Retrofit, University of Redlands, Redlands, California