

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the seismic retrofit of this house, San Jose, CA 95129

I am the owner and founder of Bay Area Retrofit, a residential seismic retrofit company I established 25 years ago.

I am writing this letter to inform you that the retrofit of this house meets or exceeds the requirements for earthquake resistance in high shaking intensity shaking zone as defined by the building code. I performed [engineering calculations](#) to confirm this.

In addition, I carefully evaluated the work to make sure it meets the highest standards of the industry. Photographs to this effect have been provided.

If qualifications matter to you, I have been on both regional and national seismic retrofit code committees, been on local and national television as a nationally recognized expert, and am published in a national trade magazine. These and other achievements are described in the next two pages.

Howard Cook

Howard Cook M.A.
Founder/Owner Bay Area Retrofit
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Professional Highlights

[Vice Chair](#) of a seismic retrofit building code committee.

Co-author of [Standard Plan A](#) used by the California Earthquake Authority as well as building departments all over the Bay Area.

[Featured Contractor](#) KPIX Channel 5

Featured expert [“The Hayward Fault. Predictable Peril.”](#) KQED, Channel 9.

Contributing Contractor [“California Works to Prepare for the Big One”](#), PBS News Hour. This is a compilation of both the "The Hayward Fault. Predictable Peril" and the NewsHour documentaries.

Course Instructor: [“Principles and Practice of Earthquake Retrofitting”](#) 2014 presented by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Author of article [“Seismic Retrofit for Cripple Walls”](#); The Journal of Light Construction. April 2006.

Featured Expert in the ["S.F. Homeowners Need To Be Ready"](#) in the S.F. Chronicle

Source for this article in the [New York Times](#)

Guest Lecturer [“Retrofit Principles and Practice for the Home Inspection Industry”](#) Sponsored by the Golden Gate Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

Keynote speaker [“The Preservation of Historical Wood-Framed Buildings”](#) Sponsored by The City of Victoria Heritage Foundation in British Columbia.

Mayoral Appointee to the Berkeley Disaster Commission as a [seismic retrofit expert](#).

Guest Lecturer: [“Retrofit Principles and Practice for the Canadian Home Inspection Industry,”](#) sponsored by the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors.

Primary source for an article in the [The Mercury News](#) on Soft Story Retrofitting.

Featured contractor in ["The Danger Beneath"](#) in the East Bay Express

Residential Damage Inspector, FEMA. 1989-1994.

Member Associations

- [Earthquake Engineering Research Institute](#)
- [Structural Engineers Association of Northern California](#)

Publications by Bay Area Retrofit

- Co-Author with Wendy Allen, Engineer for Simpson Strong Tie, [“Mudsill Anchorage Systems in Cripple Wall Retrofits”](#), 2007.
- Co-Author and currently updating Bay Area's Retrofit Guidelines: [“Standard Plan A, Residential Seismic Strengthening Plan”](#), The International Code Council, 2005.
- [“Homeowner’s Guide to Seismic Retrofitting.”](#)
- Many other publications are available in the [PDF Library](#) at BayAreaRetrofit.com.