



March 15, 2021

Daniel Schneiderei
City of Los Angeles, Department of Building and Safety
201 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: Comments on the Supplemental Fault Trench Protocol, Hollywood Center Project, Los Angeles, California

Dear Dan:

We thank you and the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department for providing CGS the opportunity to perform field reviews and comment on active fault investigations within the City's purview. Considering our previous interpretations, supported by the recently acquired new USGS seismic data, we believe the site has not yet been cleared of active faults and it is prudent to further investigate the possibility of the existence of active faulting at this site. At your request, we performed a review of the planned supplemental fault trench study by Group Delta consultants for the proposed Hollywood Center project.

Fault Trench Location and Depth

As the proposed development lies within an Earthquake Fault Zone, the objective should be to clear the proposed building area from active faults. Previous trenching at the site, specifically the "2014 East Trench" by Group Delta provided limited coverage towards the south end of the site. The newly proposed fault trench aims to complete coverage for developments in this area. In order to confidently rule out the existence of active faults we suggest increasing the overlap in coverage between the previous "East Trench" and the proposed trench by extending the proposed trench to the north. The trench outline of the east trench as shown in Group Delta's Figure 3.1 is benched and sloped at the southern end, limiting exposure of subsurface materials. The proposed new trench appears to have insufficient overlap based on projecting the effective geological exposure at maximum depth.

We recommend the trench have maximum overlap as feasibly possible. The objective is to document marker layers or contacts near the 11.7 ka age boundary in order to evaluate the presence/absence of Holocene faulting.

Age Chronology

We recommend developing an independent age chronology from the proposed trench as correlations to the "East Trench" introduce considerable uncertainty. The chronology should be based on numerical dating methods (e.g. radiocarbon or optically stimulated luminescence (OSL)) and not limited to more subjective relative soil development methods. The onsite sediments have been demonstrated to be exceptionally well-suited for C-14 and OSL dating methods. To increase efficiency, consideration should be given to expedited dating that may provide results during the field effort.

CGS Trench Review

Considering the importance of this project, we look forward to access commensurate with the complexity of the geological exposure. Our experience has shown that multiple reviewers with experience in fault investigations and repeated visits are often necessary. It would be helpful to have a draft copy of the trench log to refer to for comparison with what is exposed in the trench.

We recognize the findings from this trench could have implications to development on the west site. CGS looks forward to the opportunity to carefully view the trench with Group Delta, the City of Los Angeles, and other reviewers, and to work toward a better understanding of faulting in the area.

Sincerely,



Janis L. Hernandez
Senior Engineering Geologist, PG #7237, CEG #2260
California Geological Survey
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 850, Los Angeles, CA 90013



Timothy McCrink
Supervising Engineering Geologist, PG #4466, CEG #1549
California Geological Survey
801 K Street, MS 12-31, Sacramento, CA 95814