



## SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Environmental Health and Safety  
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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Cortez  
Vice President and CFO, Administration and Finance

FROM: Marc Majewski  
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

DATE: August 18, 2015

SUBJECT: TSI Safety Assessment at RTC



On August 17, 2015, I visited the Romberg Tiburon Center to undertake an overall Environment, Health, and Safety assessment of the areas involved with TSI operations. I was met at the site by Karina Nielson and Scott Kern, who is the facility manager for SFSU, and was a TSI volunteer.

This is an assessment based on conversations and observations during the visit.

#### **Building 86 Occupancy:**

Building 86 is a single-story, 11,600 SF, steel-framed structure.

This structure is currently a mixed B occupancy (office space) and S-1 (moderate hazard) occupancy.

**Fire & Life Safety:** The structure does not meet fire and life safety requirements for its occupancy.

There is no automatic sprinkler system, no exit signage, no evacuation maps, no fire alarm system, no smoke detectors, pull stations or strobes.

There are several fire extinguishers in the facility. None observed were certified within the past decade. None were properly mounted. Access to most was obstructed. No signage showing the location of the extinguishers was present. One fire extinguisher was observed to be out of pressure according to its gauge. (See photos 1 and 2).

Storage on top of internal offices (only accessible by ladder) adds about 16' x70' of square footage which may put the building over the limit for an un-sprinklered facility.

There was no indication of the load bearing limit for storage above the offices. Storage limits may be exceeded. This presents a hazard of collapse of the office roof. Leaking rainwater, if it lands on the office roof area may serve to reduce the weight bearing capacity of the roof. (See photo 3).

There is no railing or toeboards at the edge of the storage area above the offices. This presents a fall hazard, and a hazard from falling materials. (See Photo 4).

#### **Building 86 External Roof:**



The roof is intact, but large portions of roofing material have blown off the building and can be found surrounding the building. This creates a hazard from falling material.

The roof has skylights which have been covered over making the roof unsafe for walking on or fire-fighting due to the hidden hazard of stepping onto and falling through one of these skylights.

The roof will leak during rains which can enter horizontally through large openings in the numerous ventilator shafts on the roof. (See photos 9-10). Since the electrical supply supporting the lights and fish tanks must run continuously, the leaking rainwater creates a potential electrical and fire hazard if it comes in contact with energized electrical circuits. Additionally, the fish in the tanks would not last long w/o aeration, circulation etc.

Leaking rainwater may also increase the formation of mold on the wooden surfaces inside the building.

#### **Construction / Lack of Permits:**

None of the current or past interior construction has been performed with permits/inspections or with permission/consultation from SFSU Capital Planning.

#### **Electrical:**

Throughout the building there are jury-rigged sets of daisy-chained extension cords. This presents an electrical safety and fire hazard. (See photos 5-8).

Two of the electrical panels were missing blanks used to cover openings left by removed circuit breakers. Accidentally reaching into the opening could lead to a fatal electrocution. This is an electrical safety hazard and Cal OSHA Violation. (See photos 11-12).

The electrical panel in one of the new construction areas was located in a large opening of the wall with direct access to the back of the electrical panel and live wiring. This would be allowable if current to the panel was locked out, but the wall switch in the room controlling the room's lighting was live. Contact with any of the exposed wiring on the panel could lead to a fatal electrocution. (See photos 13-15).

This is an electrical safety hazard, and more than one Cal OSHA violation. In addition there are numerous open electrical boxes with wiring present. It is not known if any were live.

#### **Environmental Health/Hazardous Materials:**

Unmarked cylinders of compressed gas were improperly stored without being secured. (See photos 16-17).

Cans of motor oil and other flammable lubricants were noted in unmarked boxes, not properly stored, and representing a fire hazard given the volume of combustible material in scattered throughout the premises. (See photos 18-21).

#### **Summary:**

In summary, this facility should be inspected by the appropriate authority, and brought up to code before it may be used as a warehouse.

**Public Events:** These observations are based on the physical environment and photographs taken the last time there was a salmon release involving the public.

#### **General Water Safety:**

During public events:

Students are allowed around the edges of the floating platform to undo the netting to release the salmon. (See photo 22).

- The hoist used to lift and lower the wooden walkway onto the floating platform was last



inspected in 2009. Annual inspections are required. (See photo 23).

- The walkway to the floating platform is weathered and unusable. It has holes big enough for a leg to go through. It needs replacement before any public is allowed on the water. (See photo 24).
- Life preserves are not worn by students on the floating platform or at the seawall as required by RTC. (See photos 25 and 26).
- There is no evidence that students on the water are capable swimmers.
- A rescue boat is not in evidence.
- Certified lifeguards are not in evidence.
- There is a strong along shore current that would quickly take someone in the water away from the seawall.
- Rescue buoys are in place, some were inaccessible.
- The public, including toddlers, are kept away from the seawall edge by a single rope line. Under the crowded circumstances this is insufficient to prevent a drowning. (See photo 27).

### Boat Ramp Safety

- While vehicle access to the water is controlled by a locked gate, foot access to the water is not prevented. The boat ramp's locked vehicle gate will not prevent toddlers from getting to the water's edge where they are at risk from rogue waves and strong cross currents leading away from shore at the boat ramp. (See photos 28 and 29).
- Vehicles launching or recovering boats in the early morning often have bright sunlight in their rear view as they back up to the water's edge impairing visibility. A flagman should be used to facilitate this activity.
- Using the ladder on the seawall to add passengers to boats already launched is a high risk activity that should be prohibited. (See photo 30).



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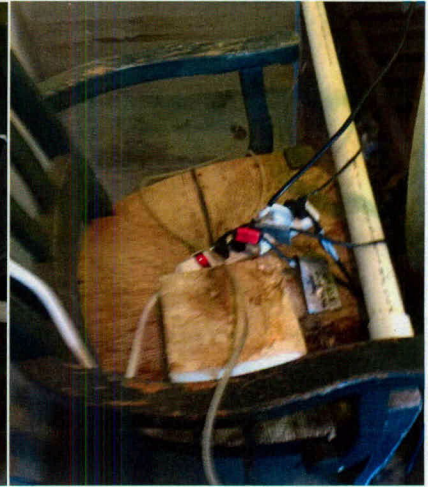


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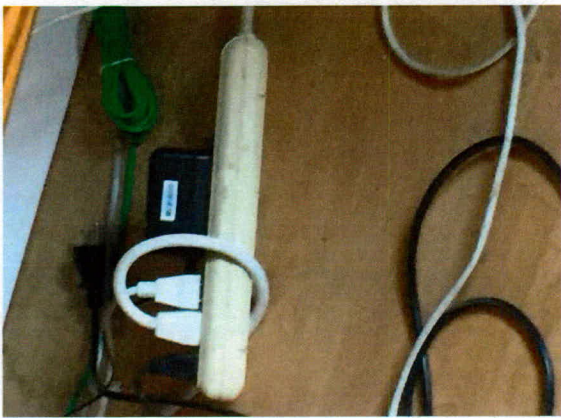




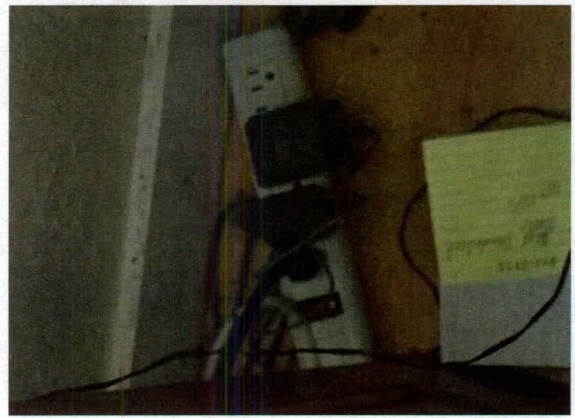
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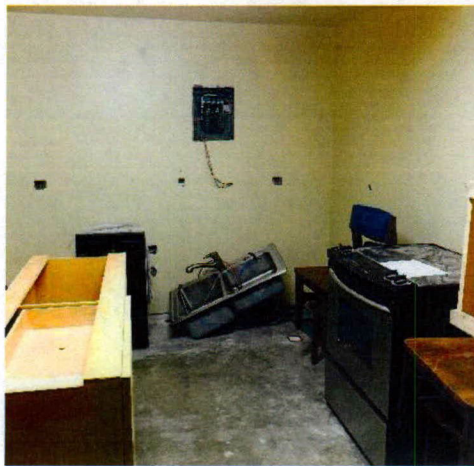




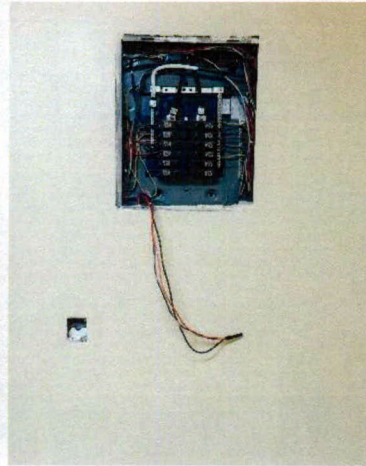
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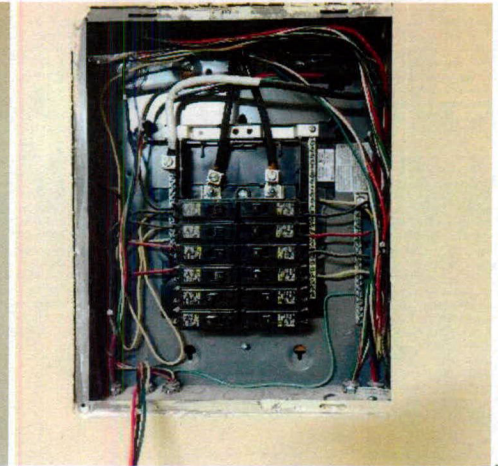
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Model #: SNEK0201

Serial #: EPIABCS4636900141710

Load Applied: ☒ 125 % of rated capacity ☐ Other:

Date: 1/29/09

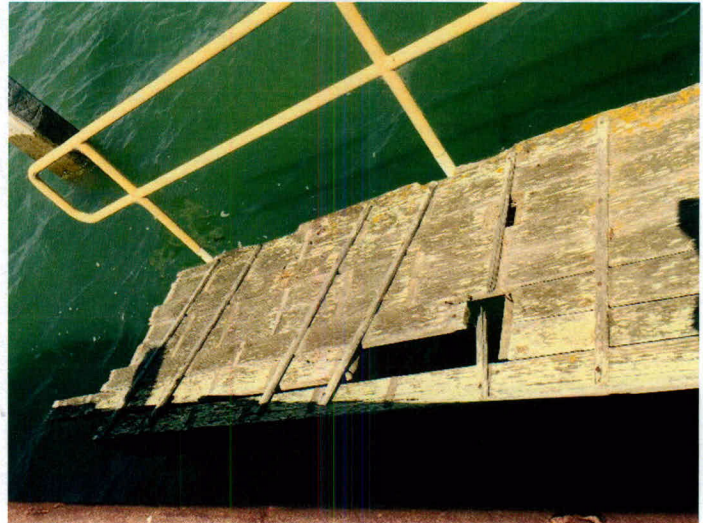
Tested By: Arches A

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Mark Miller  
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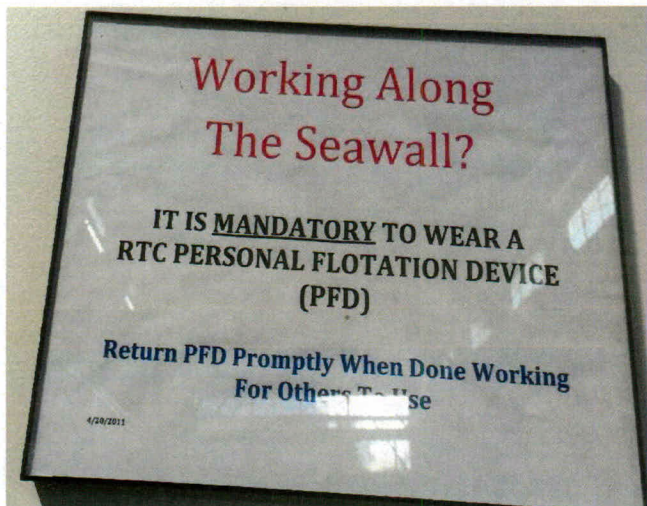
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Chris Hess  
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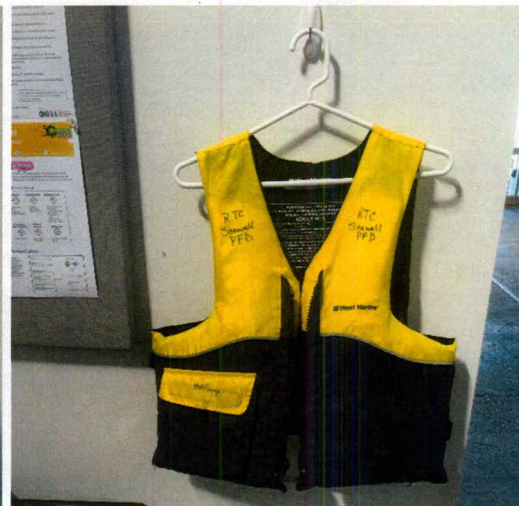
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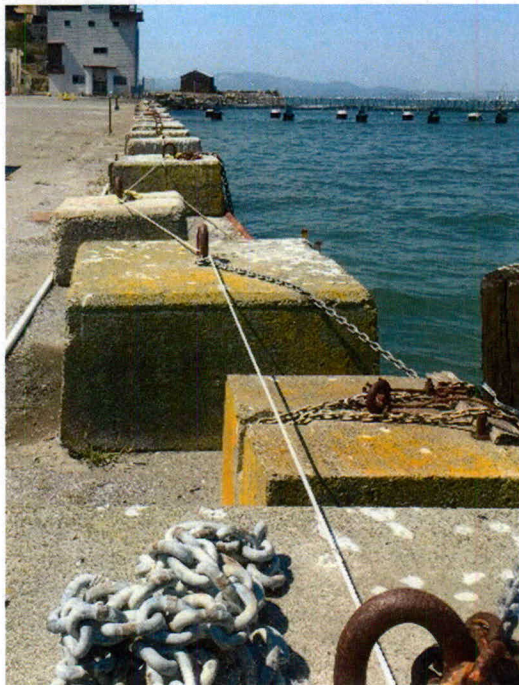


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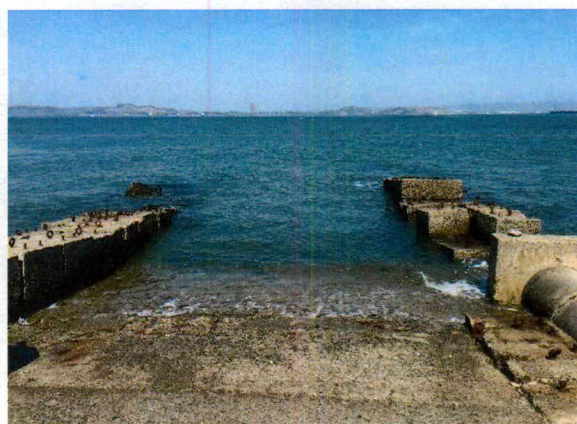




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