

2025 Web Conference Lunch-and-Learn

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Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025: from 1:15 pm to 2:00 pm EST

Ground Improvement: Best Practices and Pitfalls Learned from Bidding, Winning, and Building over 100 Projects

Juan R. Salinas, PE, Senior Design Engineer

This presentation will begin with a brief overview of ground improvement fundamentals before quickly transitioning into key lessons learned from Aggregate Pier and Rigid Inclusion projects completed by Keller over the past three years. The recommendations shared are intended to support geotechnical consultants, owners, structural engineers, and practitioners in addressing common challenges related to feasibility evaluation, design, testing, quality control, and construction. Insights are drawn from both short case studies featuring unusual site conditions and broader project comparisons where recurring patterns and challenges were identified.

About the presenter:

Juan Salinas is a senior engineer at Keller with over 12 years of experience in consulting and geotechnical design. He is a Virginia Tech graduate and is licensed in nine states with expertise in geotechnical evaluation, foundation support, earth retention structures, and risk mitigation for residential, commercial, industrial, and mission-critical developments. He currently specializes in the design and implementation of ground improvement systems, serving as the Engineer of Record on projects throughout the Southeast US.