

Web Conference Lunch-and-Learn

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Friday, December 10; 1:15 pm to 1:50 pm EST

Sequential Excavation Method (SEM) for the San Diego Courthouse Commons Tunnel Project

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This presentation will provide an overview of the Sequential Excavation Method (SEM) of tunneling recently applied on the Courthouse Commons (COCO) Tunnel in Southern California. The COCO Tunnel is a component of the larger Courthouse Commons Development Project located in downtown San Diego and involved construction of a ~300 foot-long, 15-foot diameter tunnel located directly beneath an existing high-rise building. Tunneling required strict controls on excavation methods to minimize the potential for ground settlement, yet also required flexibility to adapt to variable conditions which are common to underground construction in congested urban settings. The tunnel was further challenged by crossing of an active fault zone which required an innovative seismic joint design to allow the installed waterproofing and final lining to accommodate up to 18 inches of potential fault displacement. This presentation will discuss design and construction challenges for the project, and will include a short virtual “tour” that will provide attendees with an in-depth look at the project’s design and construction.