



**King County**

Department of Transportation

**HNTB**

# **Sunken Caisson Foundations for South Park Bascule Bridge**

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**Western Bridge Engineers' Seminar  
Sacramento, CA  
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# Outline

1. Existing Bridge
2. Replacement Bridge
3. Seismicity and Seismic Design Criteria
4. Drilled Shaft vs. Sunken Caisson
5. Factors Affected the Decision
6. Caisson Construction Sequence
7. Design Status
8. Questions/Answers



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## Bridge Location



- Located in South Seattle across Duwamish Waterway.
- Subsurface consists of silty sand fill in upper regions and underlain by very soft to medium stiff clay.
- Soils are contaminated.
- The area has been subjected to numerous earthquakes of magnitude up to 6.8 in the Richter Scale (2001 Nisqually Earthquake)



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## Existing Bridge



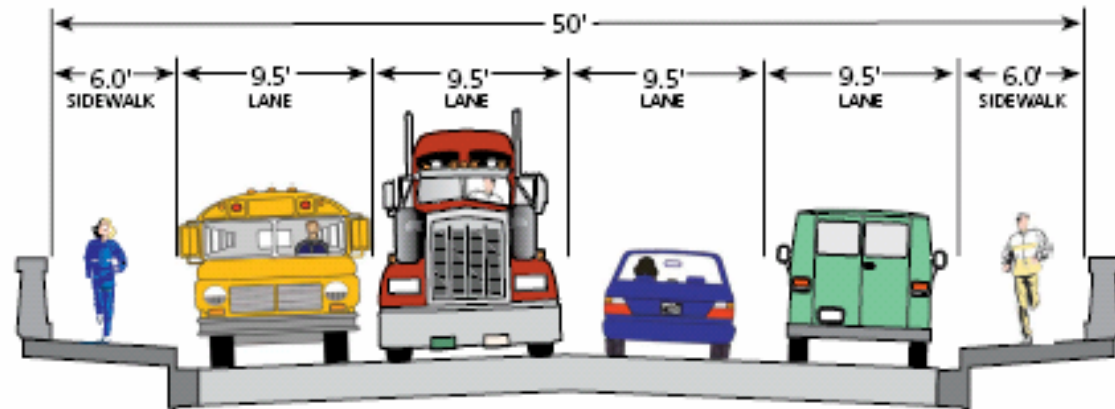
- Double-leaf bascule bridge with truss deck approaches
- Scherzer rolling-lift bridge
- Constructed in 1929-1931
- The bridge was constructed for \$482,000



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# Existing Bridge Configuration



TYPICAL EXISTING SECTION

- Four-lane road with two lanes in each direction
- Substandard 9.5-foot lane width
- Open-grate deck on moveable span



# Historic Features

## National Register of Historic Places (1982)



Control Tower



Guide Track & Rocker

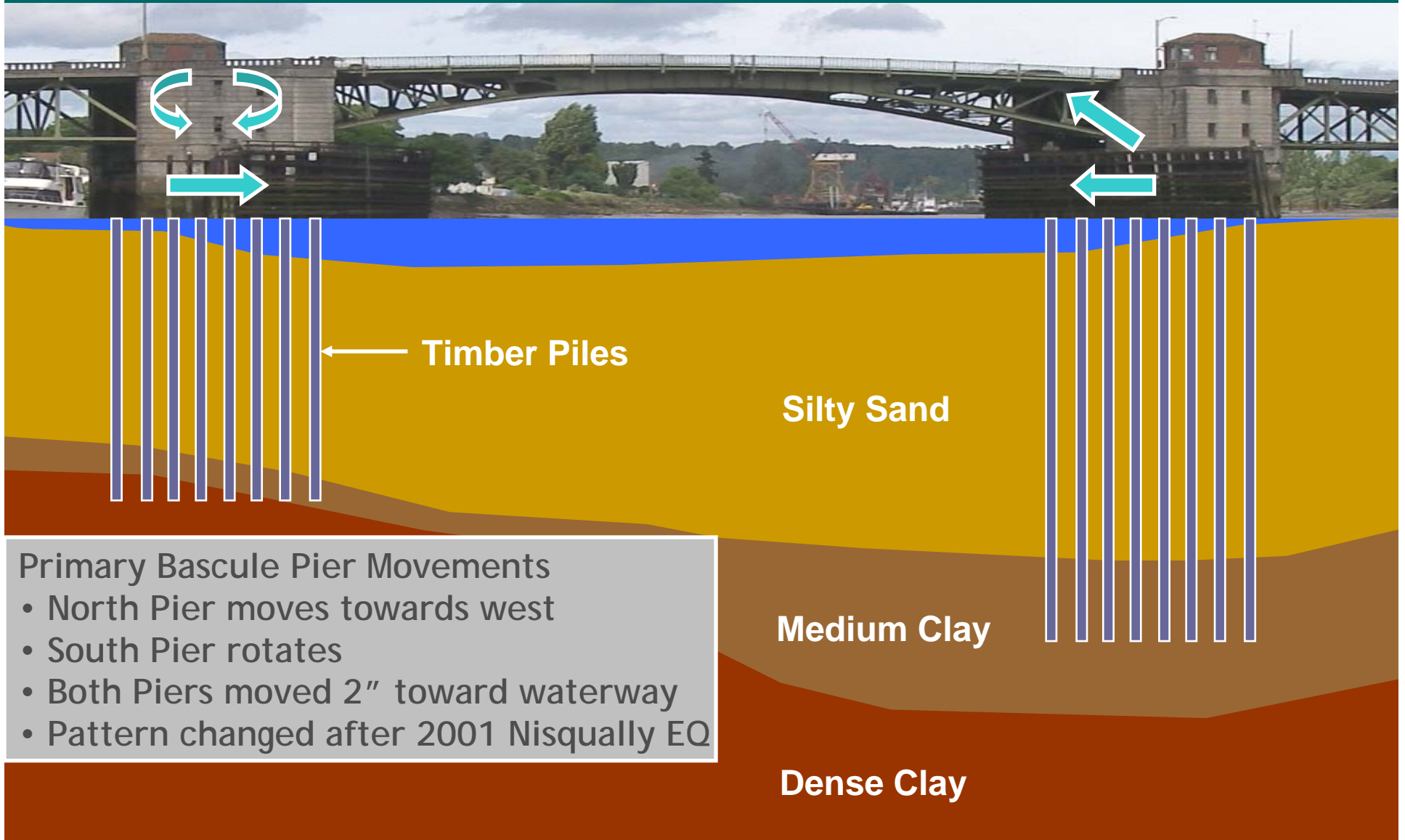


Red-Brick Road

# Existing Bridge Foundation

South Bascule Pier

North Bascule Pier



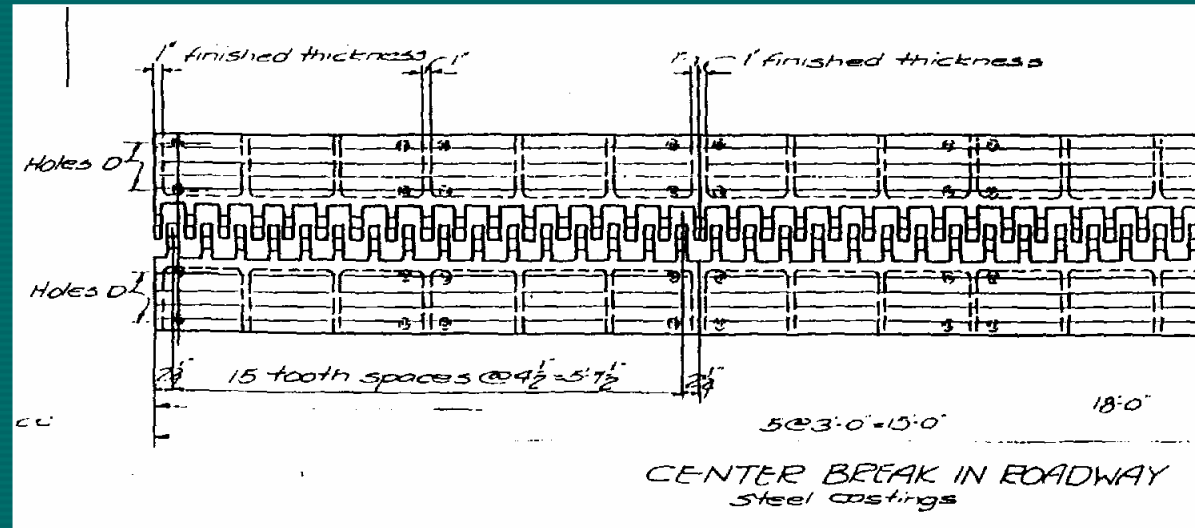


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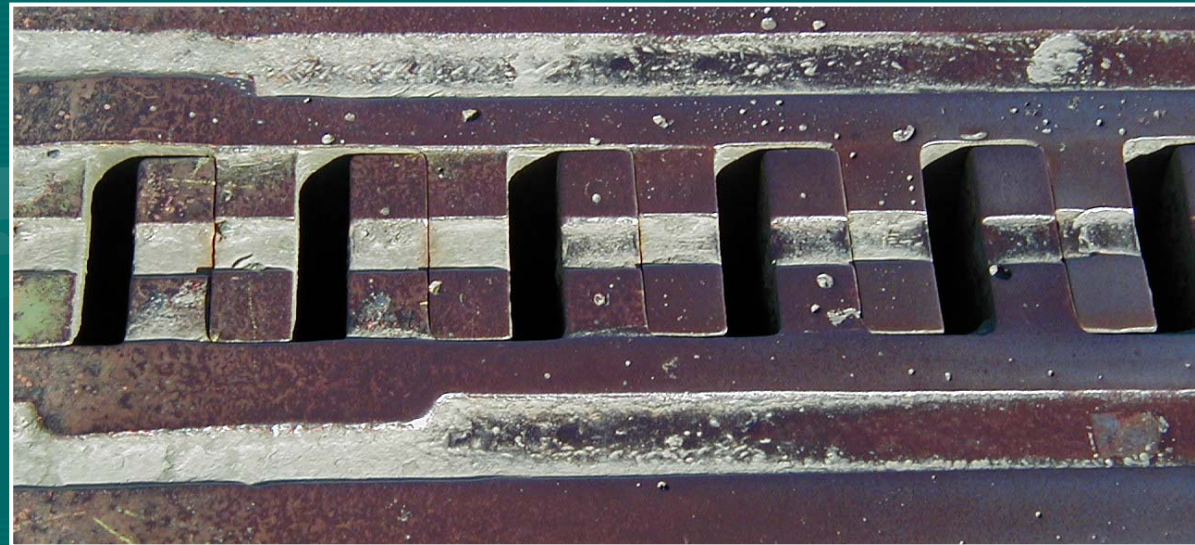
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# Leaf Misalignment

Teeth as designed



Teeth after  
Nisqually  
Earthquake







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# Replacement Bridge



- A double-leaf bascule movable bridge
- Wider four 11-foot traffic lanes
- A pedestrian / bicycle pathway on each side
- Architectural features of existing bridge
- State-of-the-art electrical control and mechanical drive
- Solid deck for a better driving surface and drainage treatment
- Minimum disruption after earthquakes



# Seismic Parameters

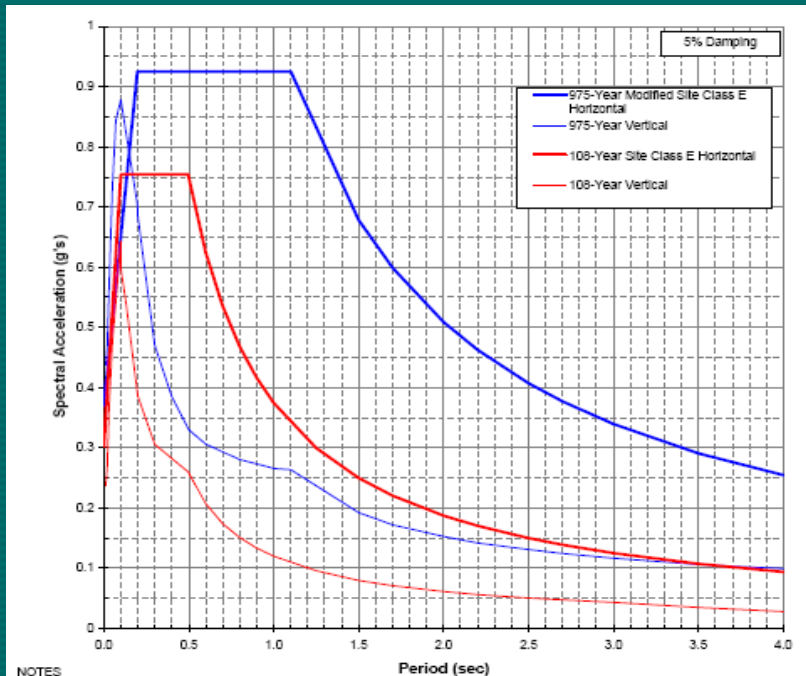
- Two-Level Earthquake Design
  - Operational Earthquake - 108 Year Event
  - Design Earthquake - 975 Year Event
- Bridge Importance "Essential"
- Seismic Performance Zone 4
- Site Class "E"



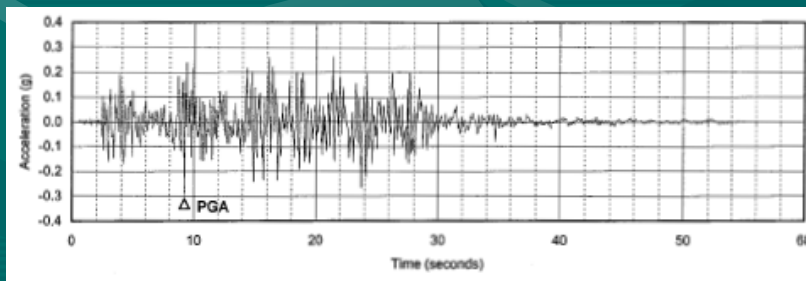
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# Ground Motions



NOTES:



- Site-specific response spectra for two levels of earthquakes were developed by Shannon & Wilson, Inc.

- Spectrum-compatible time histories were developed by Earth Mechanics, Inc.



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# Governing Seismic Criteria

- AASHTO "LRFD Movable Highway Bridge Design Specifications," 2nd Edition, 2007 with 2008 Interims.
- AASHTO "AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications," customary U.S. units, 4th Edition, 2007 with 2008 Interims.
- WSDOT "Bridge Design Manual LRFD," May 2008.





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# Choice of Foundation Type

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Courtesy of Malcolm



Drilled Shaft or Sunken Caisson

# Caisson Foundation

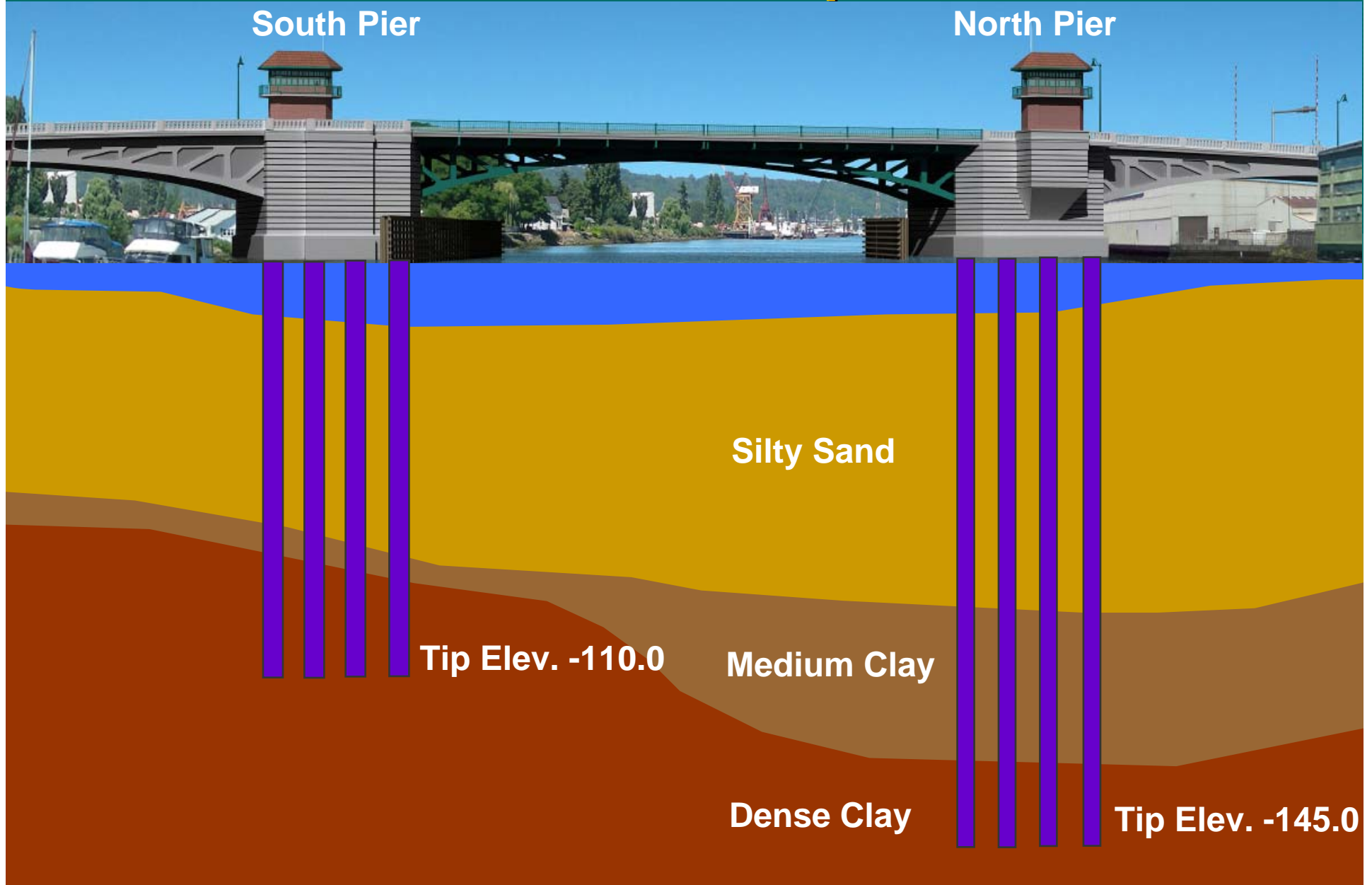
- Improves seismic performance
- Reduces construction schedule
- Minimizes environmental impacts
- Reduces cost



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# Drilled Shaft Option

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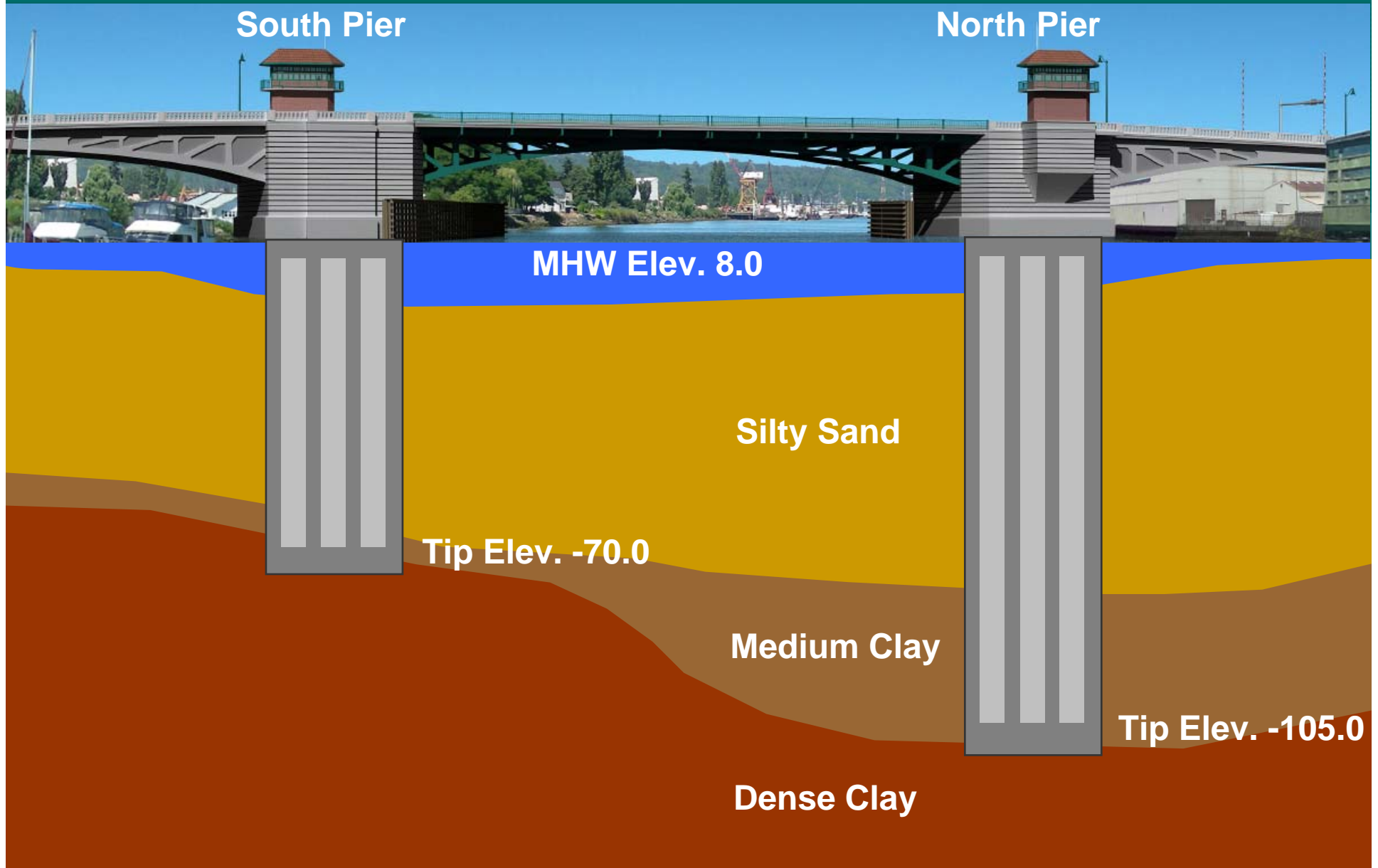




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# Caisson Option

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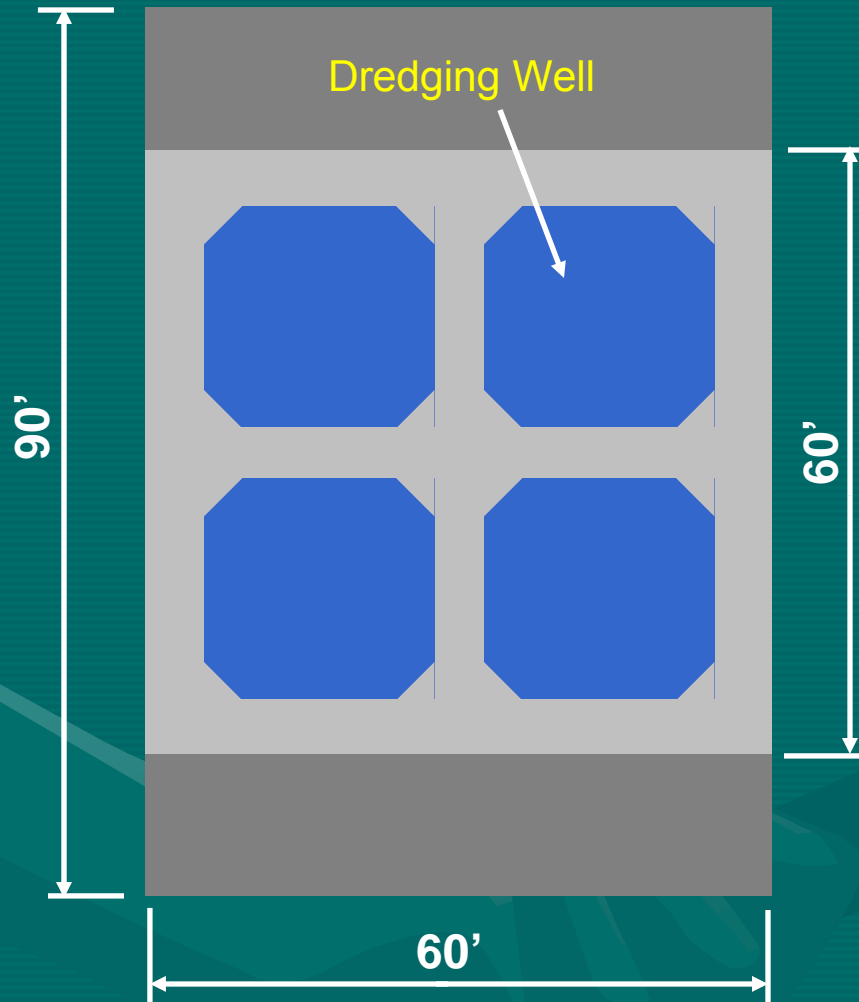




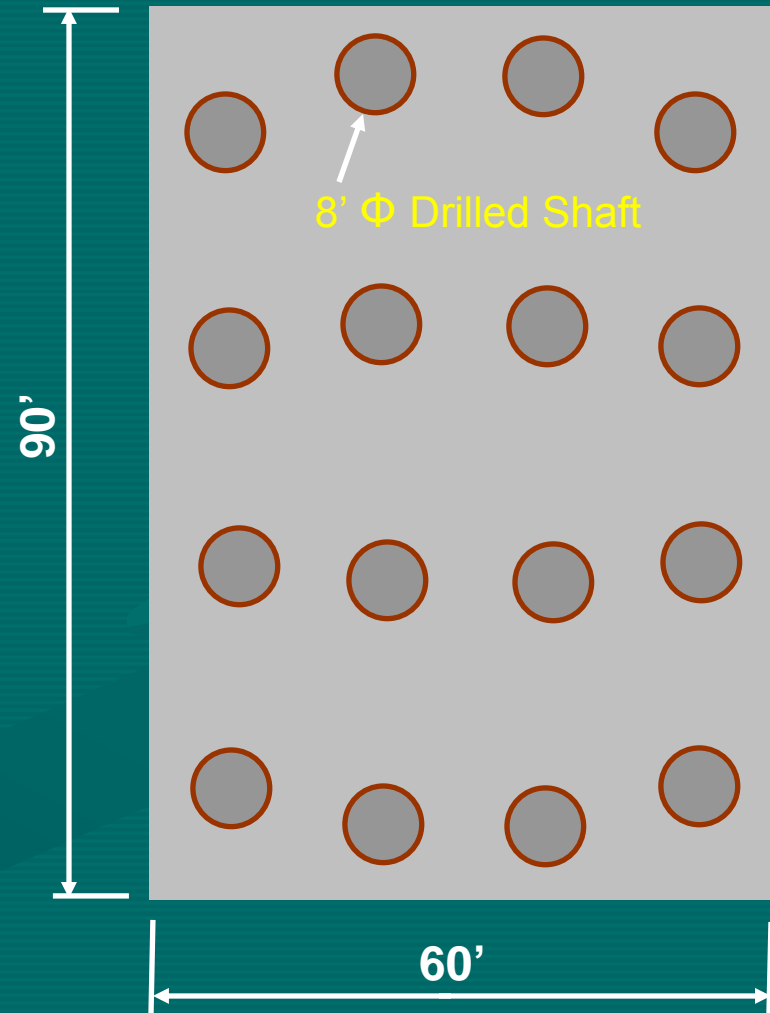
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# Cross Sections

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Caisson



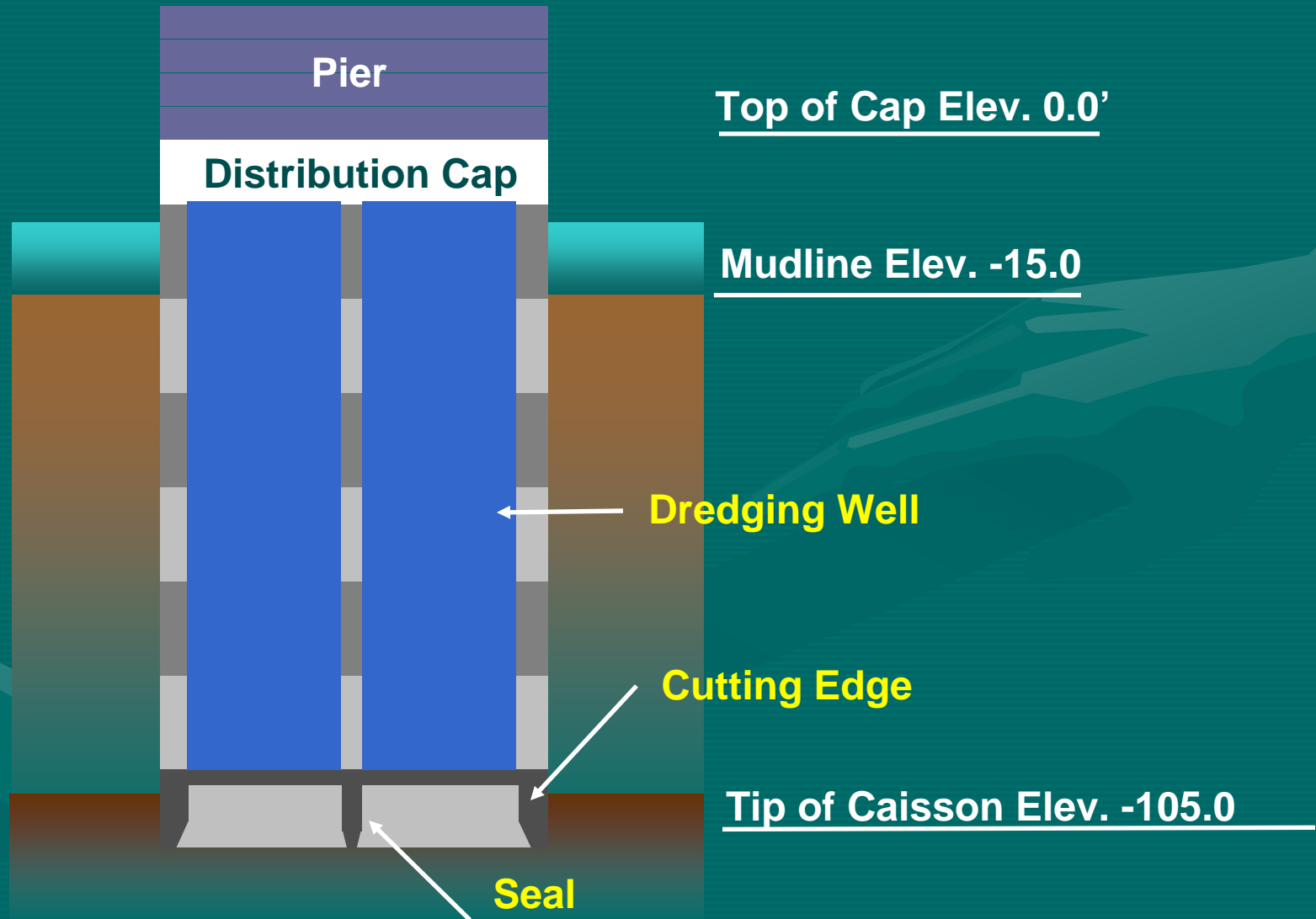
Shaft



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# Caisson Elevation





# Seismic Performance

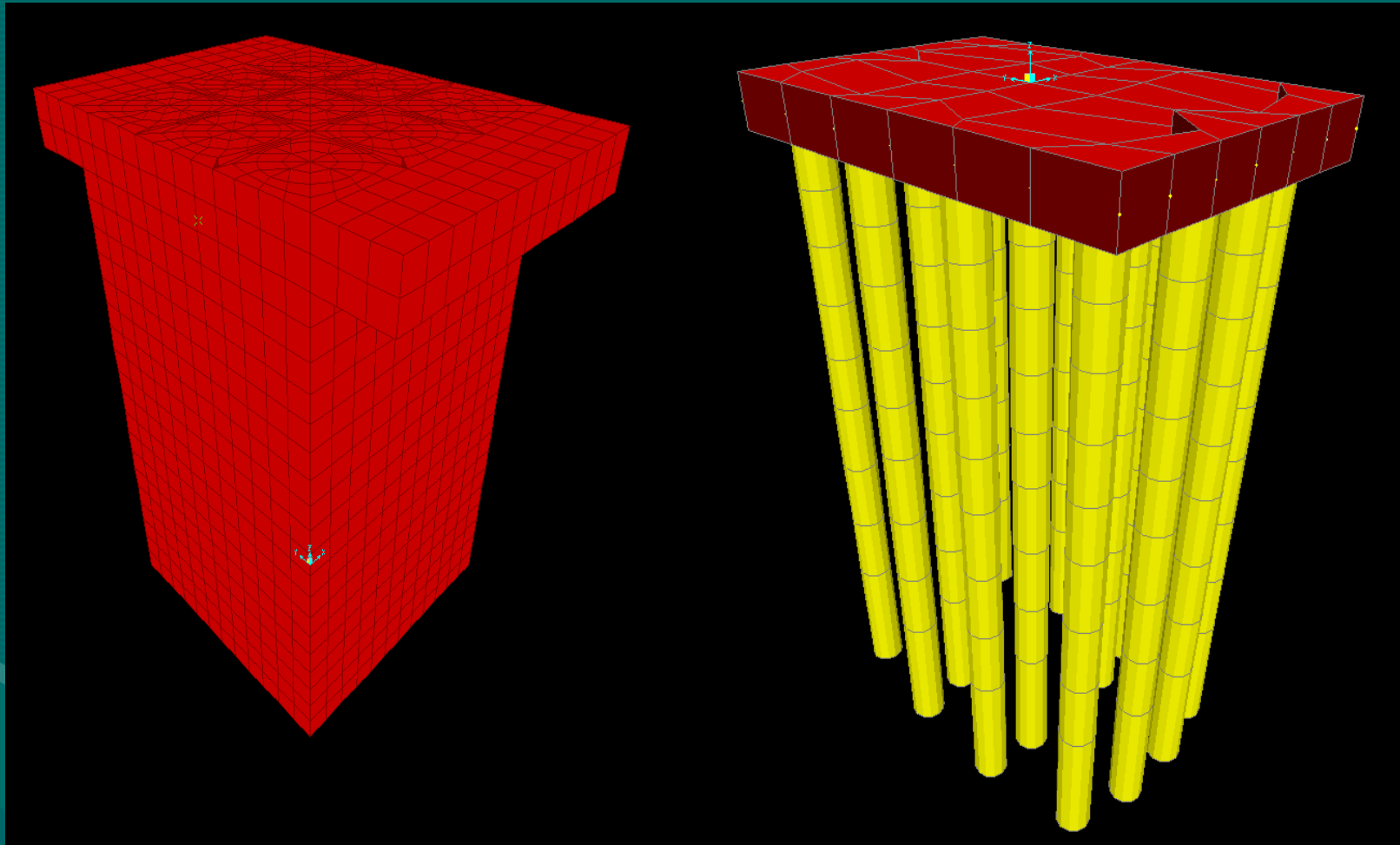
- Created stand-alone models for both caisson and shaft foundations using SAP2000
- Used elasto-plastic springs for soil-structure interactions
- Applied static seismic loads and compare deflections
- Performed push-over analyses
- Compared the predicted seismic performances



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# SAP 2000 Models

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Caisson

Shaft

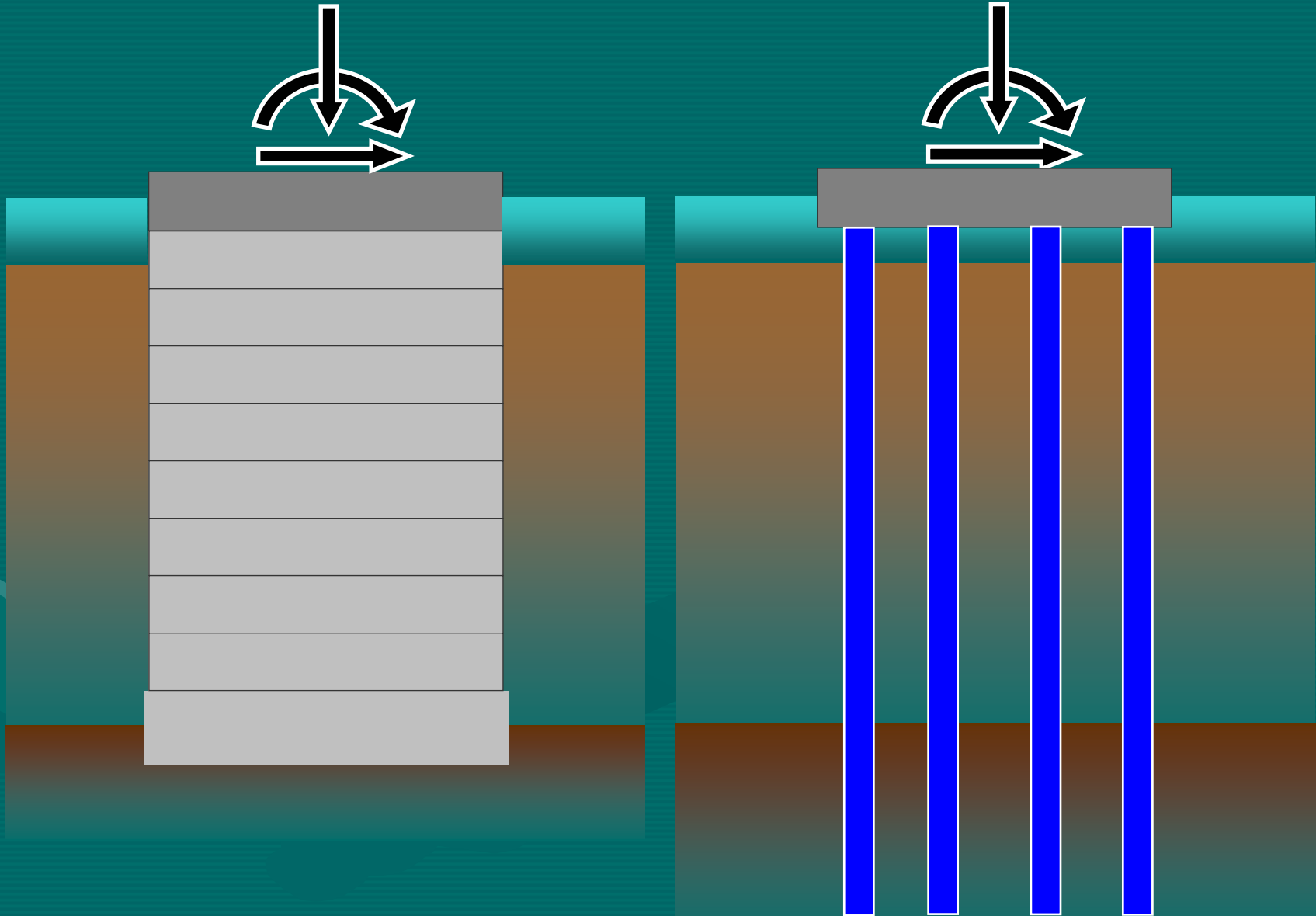




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# Applied Loads

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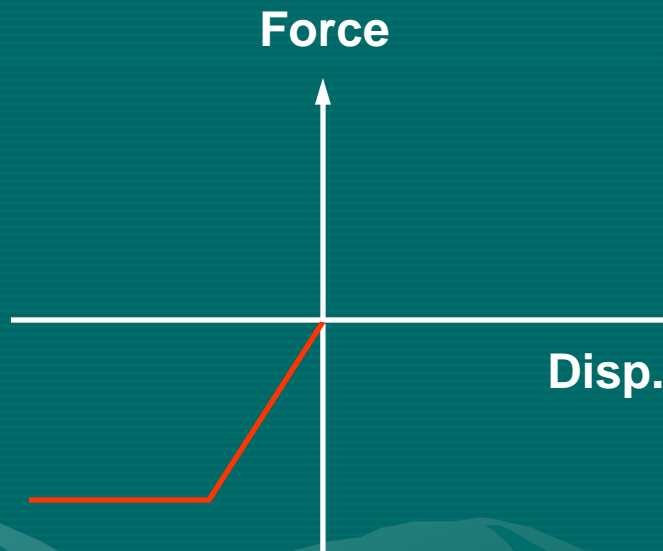




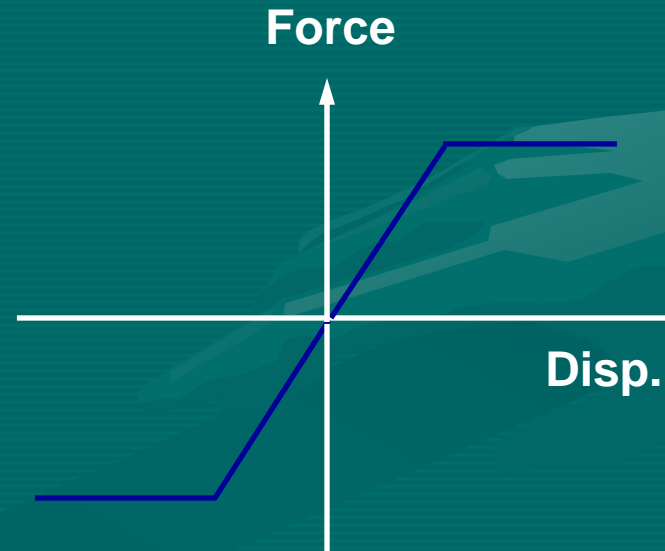
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# Elasto-Plastic Springs



Bearing Spring  
Passive Pressure Spring



Friction Spring



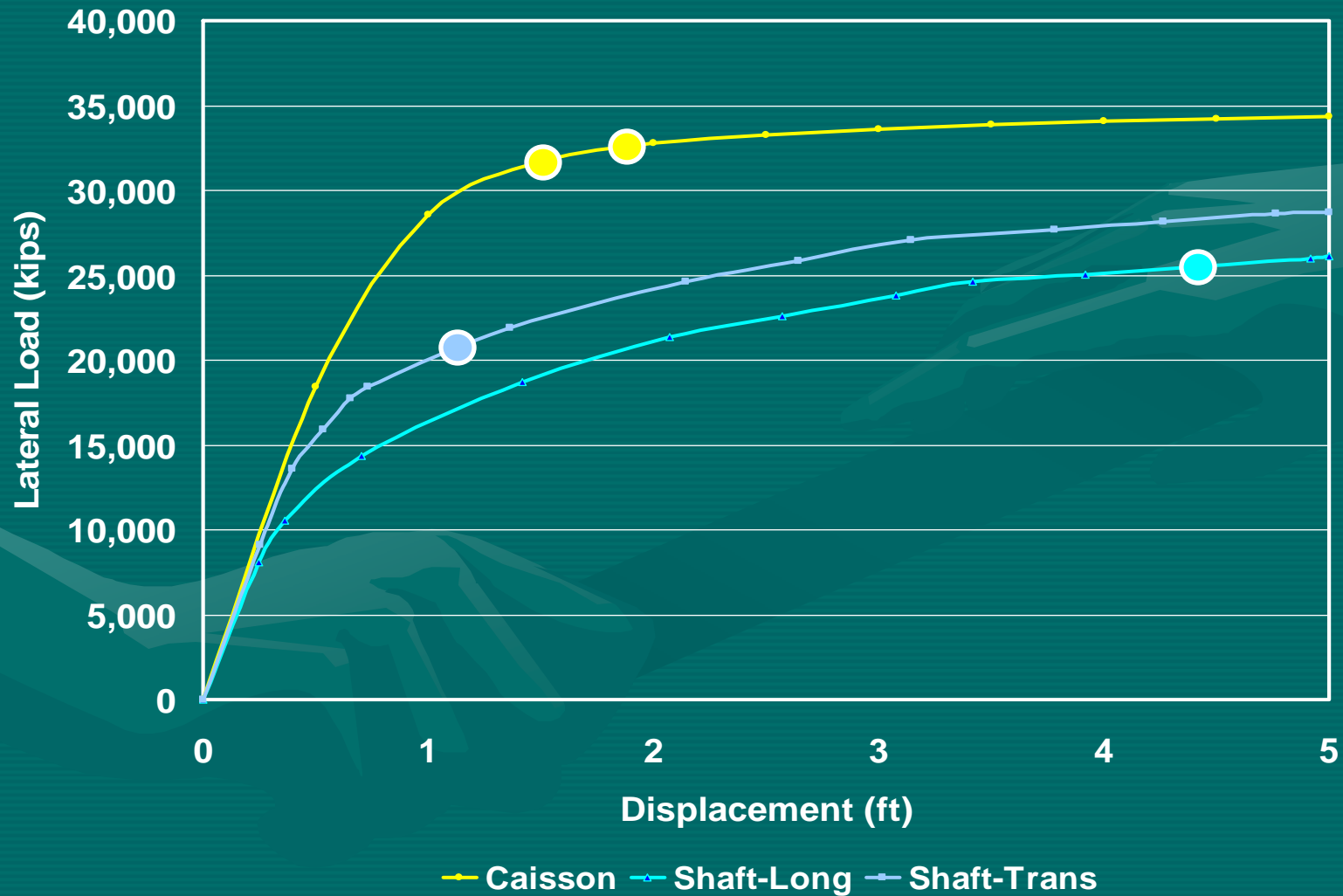
# Analysis Results

	Load Case	Long Disp	Trans Disp	Long Rotation	Trans Rotation
Caisson	Max Long	1.92'	0.27''	1.06°	0.16°
	Max Trans	0.27'	1.54'	0.15°	0.86°
Shaft	Max Long	4.48'	0.42'	2.37°	0.25°
	Max Trans	0.33'	1.14'	0.13°	0.23°



# Analysis Results

## Push-over Curves for Shaft and Caisson Foundations





# Seismic Performance

- Caisson option exhibits a stiffer behavior for lateral loading and results in smaller displacements
- Caisson option provides a more balanced behavior in longitudinal and transverse directions
- Caisson option is less likely to have a residual displacement after an earthquake
- Small displacement is better for the machinery during an earthquake and easier for repair after an earthquake



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# Other Considerations

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- Environmental impact
- Economy
- Constructability
- Construction schedule
- Construction risk





# Environmental Impact

- Volume of contaminated soils
- Volume of disturbed soils
- Noise during construction
- Vibration during construction
- Footprint of work bridge
- Daily construction equipment usage
- Number of workers commuting to site per day
- Fish considerations
- Endangered species



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# Economy



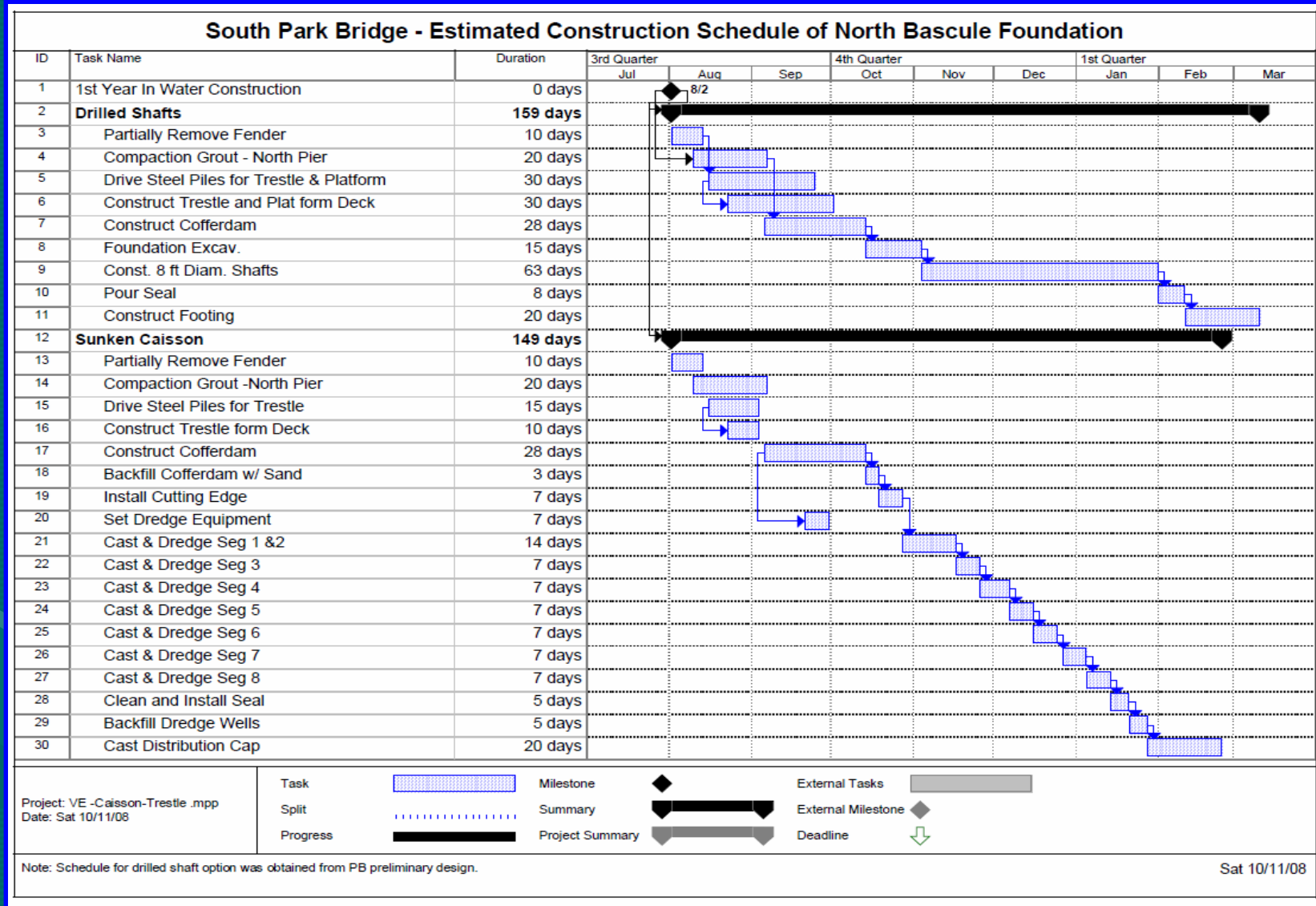
## South Park Bridge - Gross Relative Quantities for North Bascule Foundation

	Item	Unit	Unit Price	Caisson Option		Shaft Option	
				Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
1	Cofferdam	SF	\$ 35	28,520	\$998,000	23,100	\$809,000
2	Caisson Cap / Pile Cap	CY	\$ 450	1,987	\$894,000	1,987	\$894,000
3	Concrete Seal	CY	\$ 225	2,136	\$481,000	613	\$138,000
4	Caisson Concrete	CY	\$ 500	6,303	\$3,151,000		\$0
5	Shafts Concrete	CY	\$ 300		\$0	3,593	\$1,078,000
6	Shaft Excavation	CY	\$ 450		\$0	3,721	\$1,675,000
7	Caisson Excavation	CY	\$ 100	13,600	\$1,360,000		\$0
8	Placing Permanent Casing for Shaft	EA	\$ 2,500		\$0	16	\$40,000
9	Shaft Casing	LB	\$ 1.25		\$0	4,088,562	\$5,111,000
10	Caisson Cutting Edge Steel	LB	\$ 2.00	266,000	\$532,000		\$0
11	Dredge Well Backfill	CY	\$ 30	5,359	\$161,000		\$0
12	Temporary Trestle and Drill Platform	LS	\$ 937,500			1	\$938,000
13	Temporary Trestle	LS	\$ 525,000	1	\$525,000		\$0
14	Sand Island	CY	\$ 50	5,281	\$264,000		\$0
15	Barge Usage	DAY	\$ 10,000	50	\$500,000		\$0
16	Removal of Contaminated soils	CY	\$ 50	2,136	\$107,000	447	\$22,000
17	Steel Reinforcement	LB	\$ 1.25	1,243,484	\$1,554,000	837,035	\$1,046,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$10,500,000</b>		<b>\$11,800,000</b>



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# Construction Schedule





## Construction Risks

- Steel prices for steel casing
- Effects of drill vibration on existing bridge
- Caisson may tilt during sinking
- Soil outside caisson may cave during excavation and thus impair existing bridge
- Driving deep cofferdams
- Obstacles during shaft drilling and caisson sinking
- Contractors experience with caisson and large drilled shafts
- Cost escalation for material and labor



# Evaluation Matrix

Considerations	Weight	Caisson		Shaft	
		No Weight	Weighted	No Weight	Weighted
1. Seismic Performance	30	9	2.6	5	1.6
2. Environmental Impact	20	7	1.4	6	1.1
3. Cost	20	8	1.5	6	1.1
4. Constructability	10	8	0.8	5	0.5
5. Construction Schedule	10	8	0.8	5	0.5
6. Risk	10	6	0.6	5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5.5</b>



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# Construction Sequence

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Soil Profile





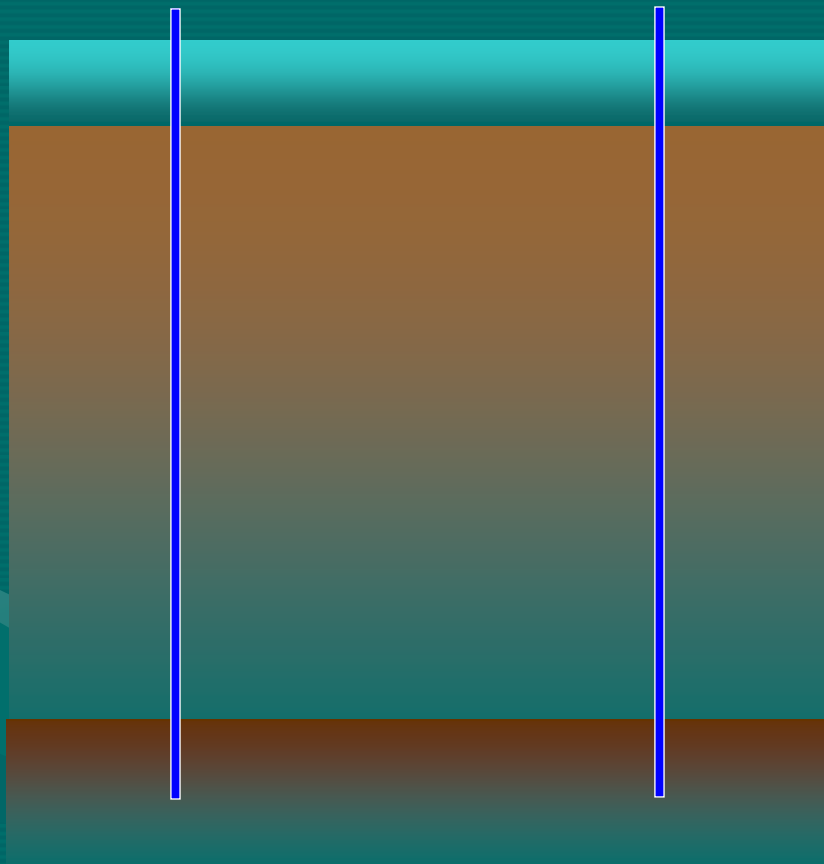
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 1:

Construct sheet pile cofferdam





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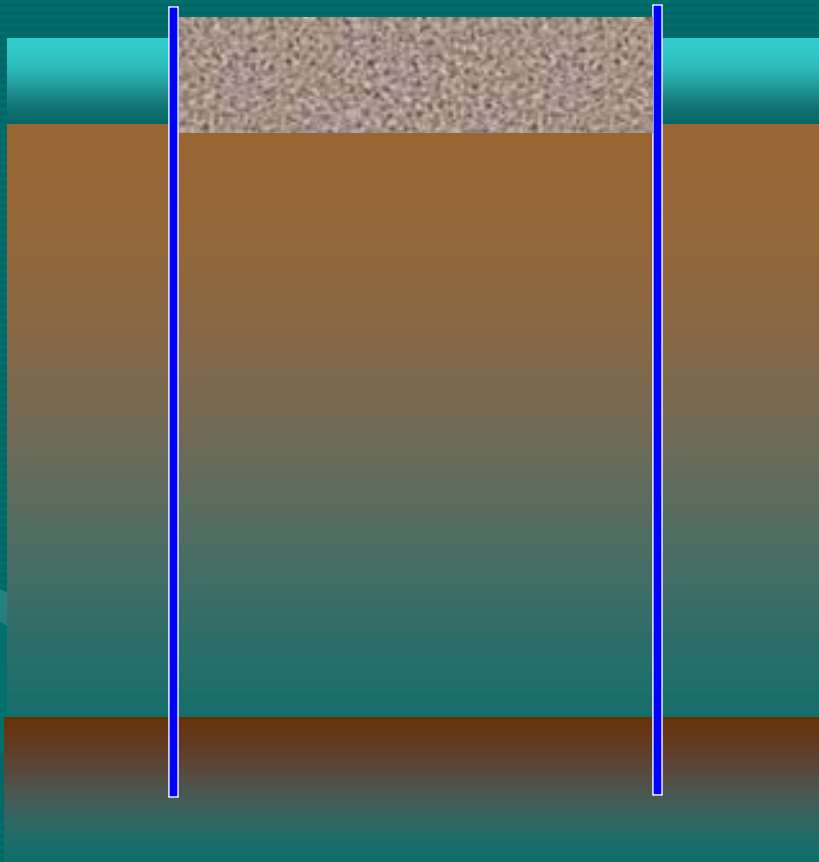
# Construction Sequence

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Stage 2:

Dredge the river

Place sand into cofferdam to  
create a sand island

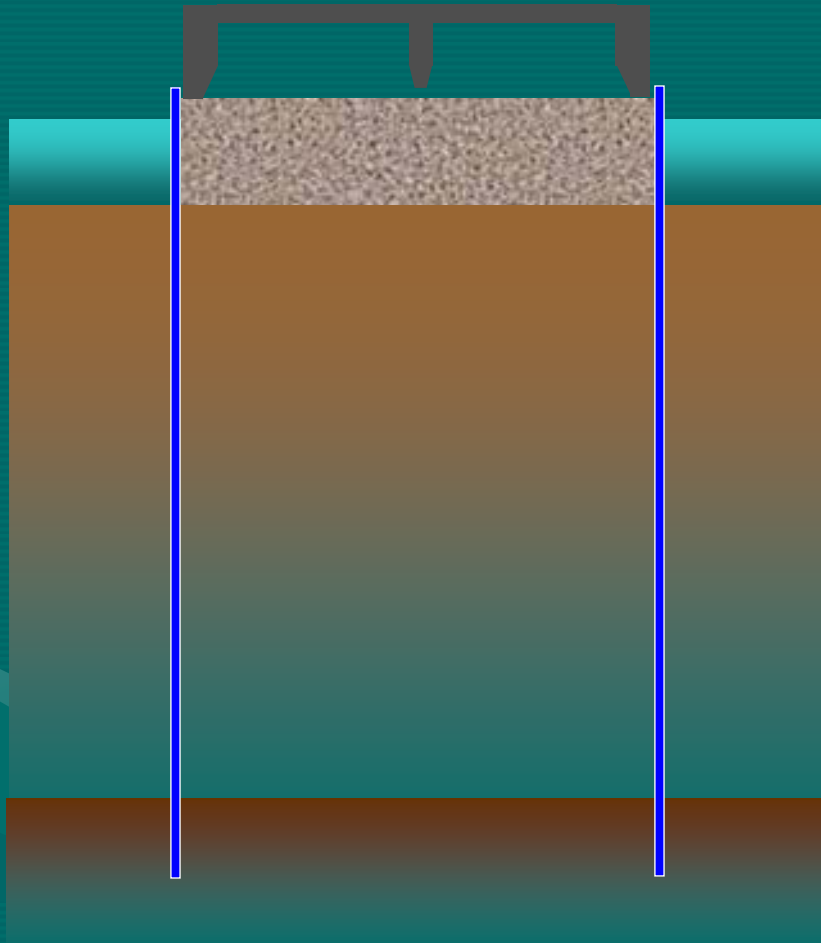




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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 3:

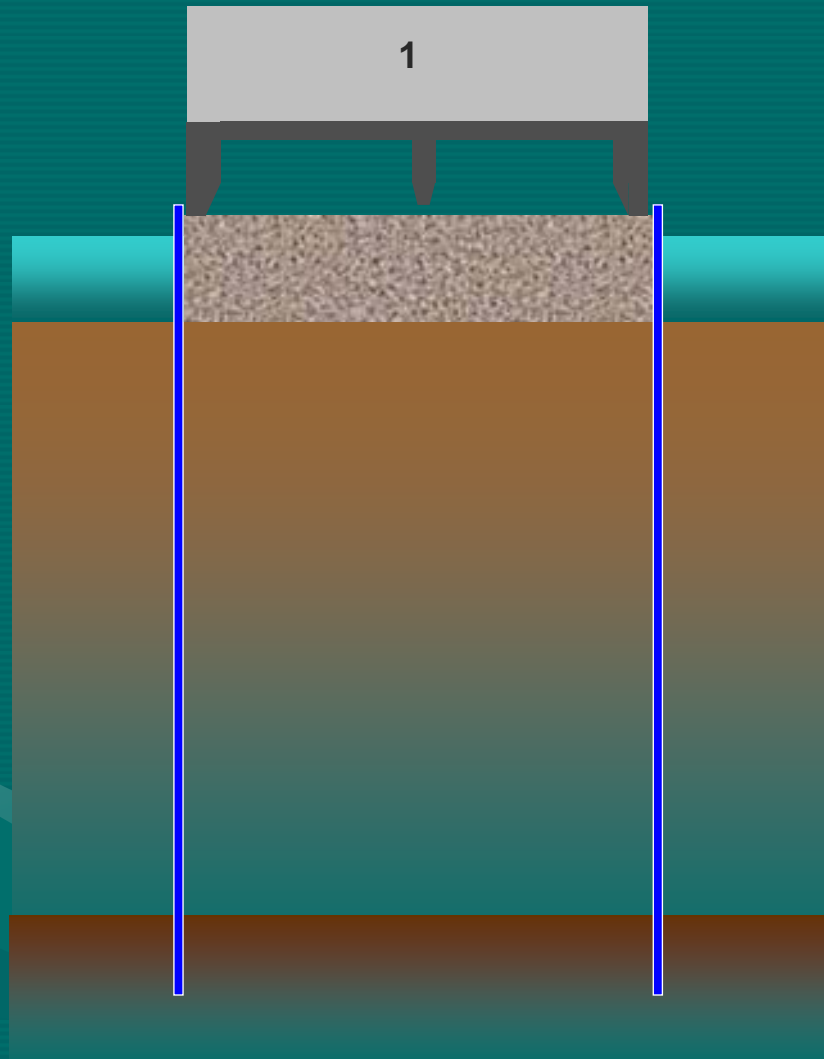
Form and cast cutting edge on top of sand island



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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 4:

Cast one 15-ft segment

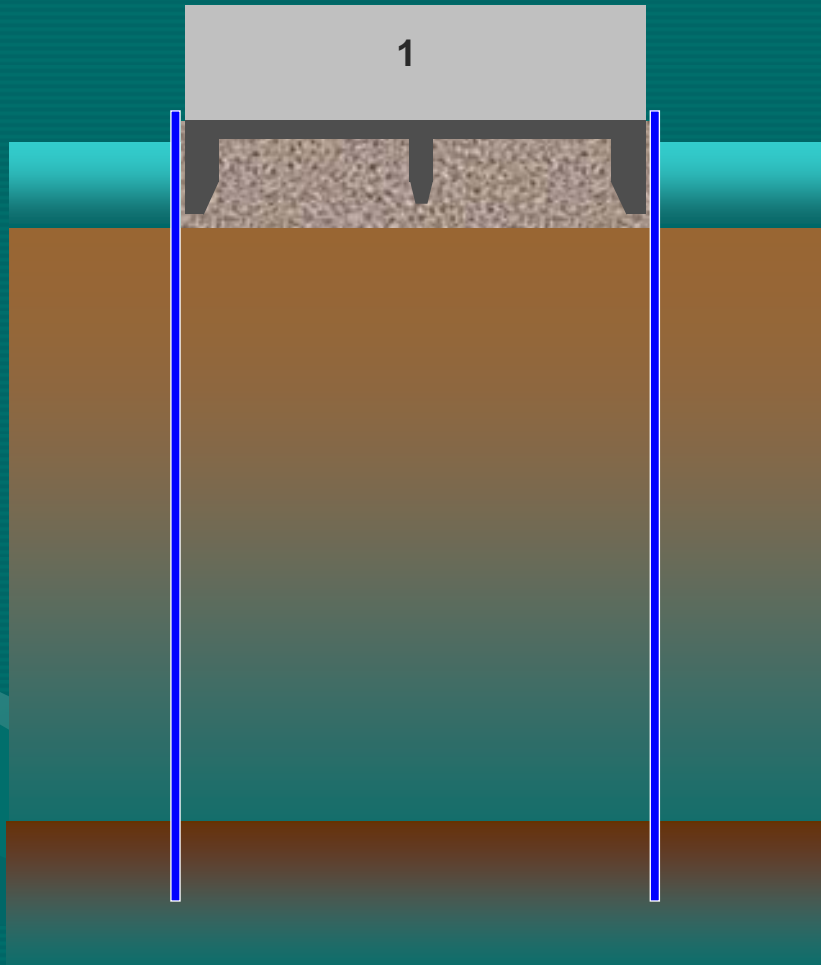
Start dredging and sinking the caisson



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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 5:

Continue to dredge and sink the caisson



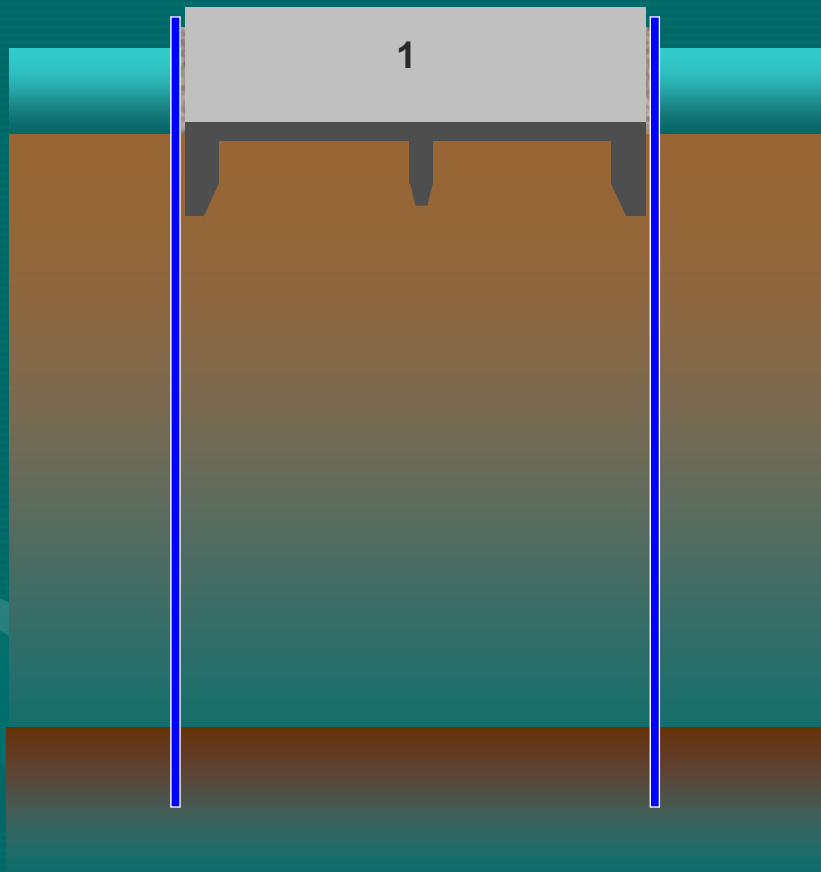
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Stage 6:

Continue to dredge and sink the caisson



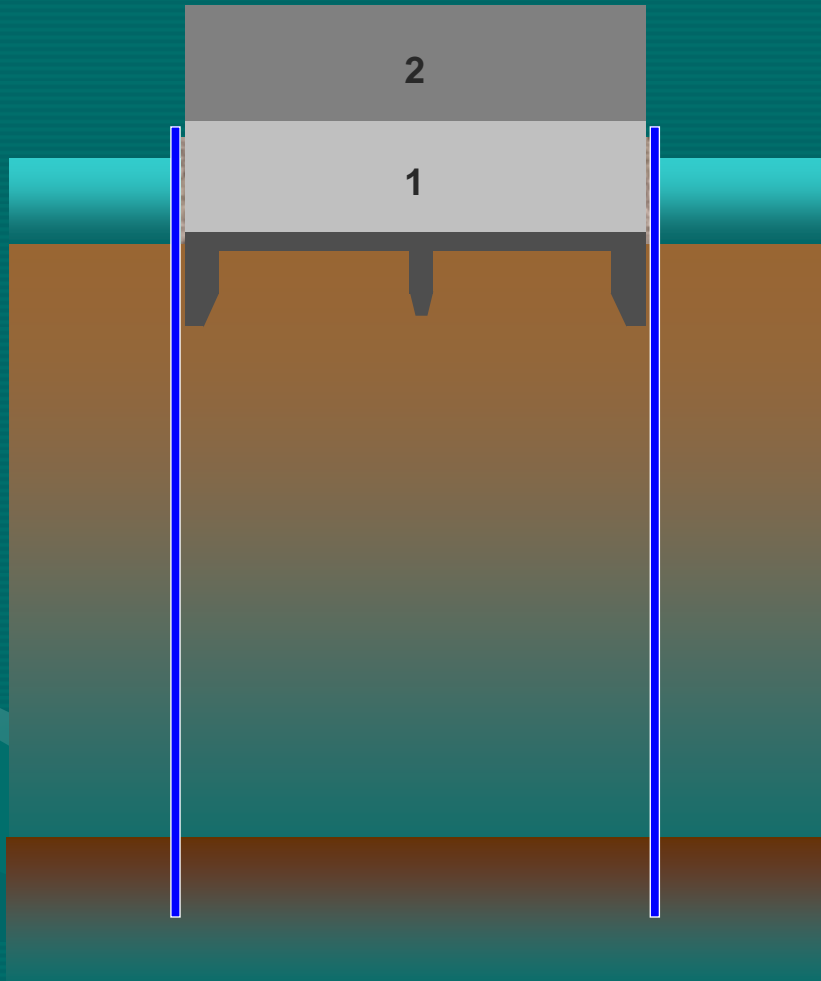




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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 7:

Cast Segment 2



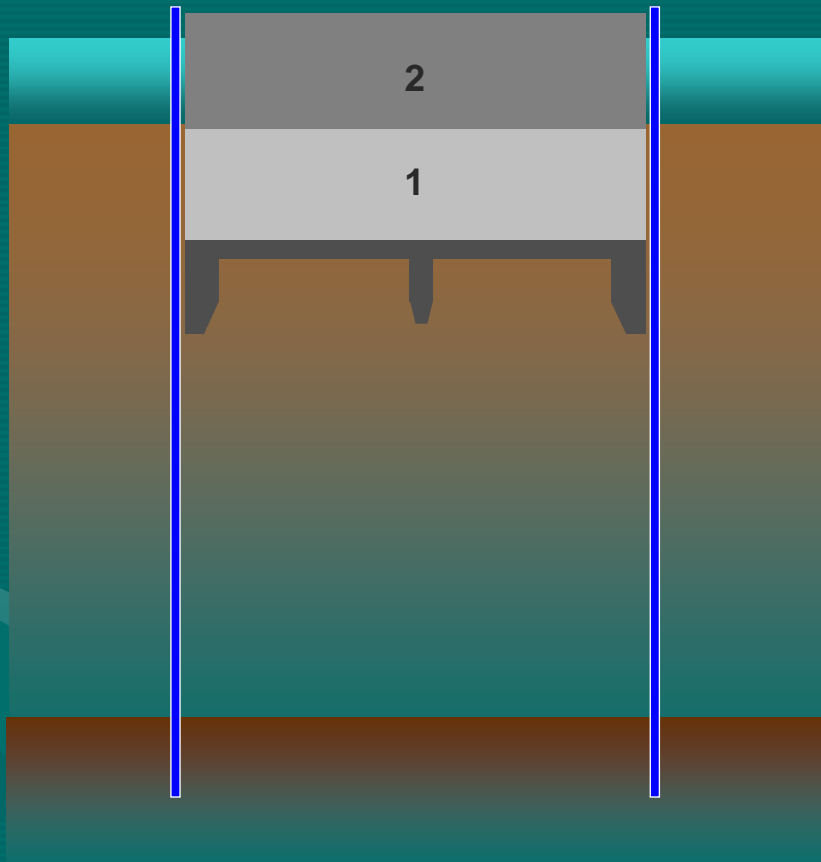
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 8:

Continue to dredge and sink the caisson

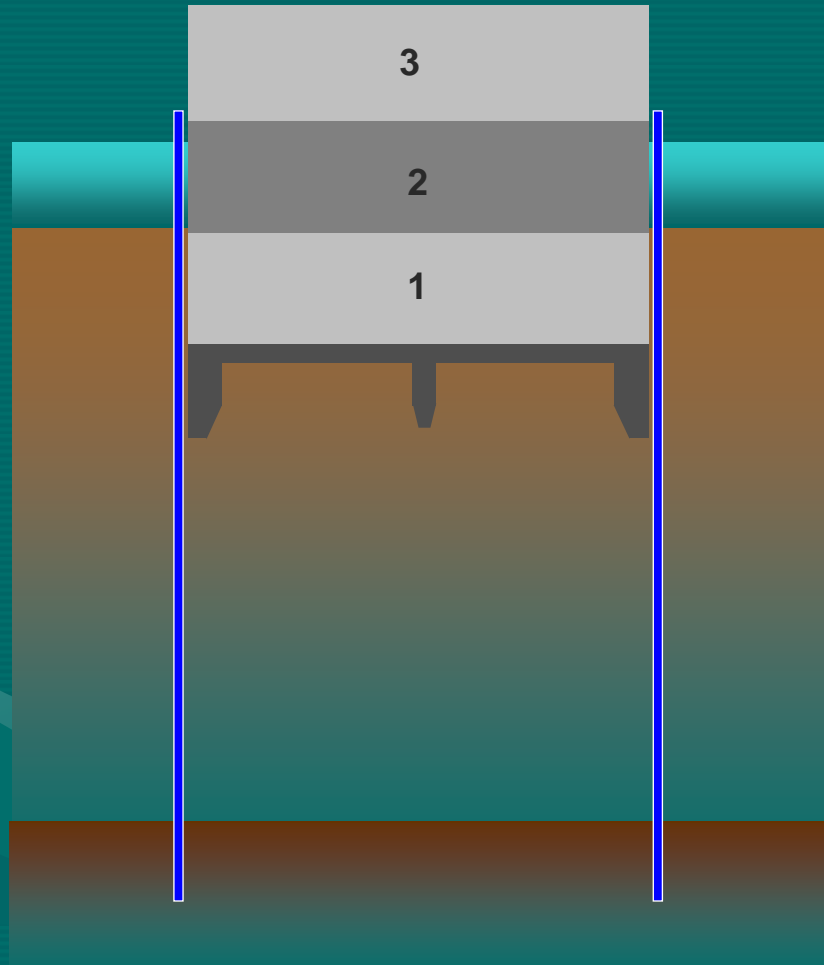




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Stage 9:

Cast Segment 3



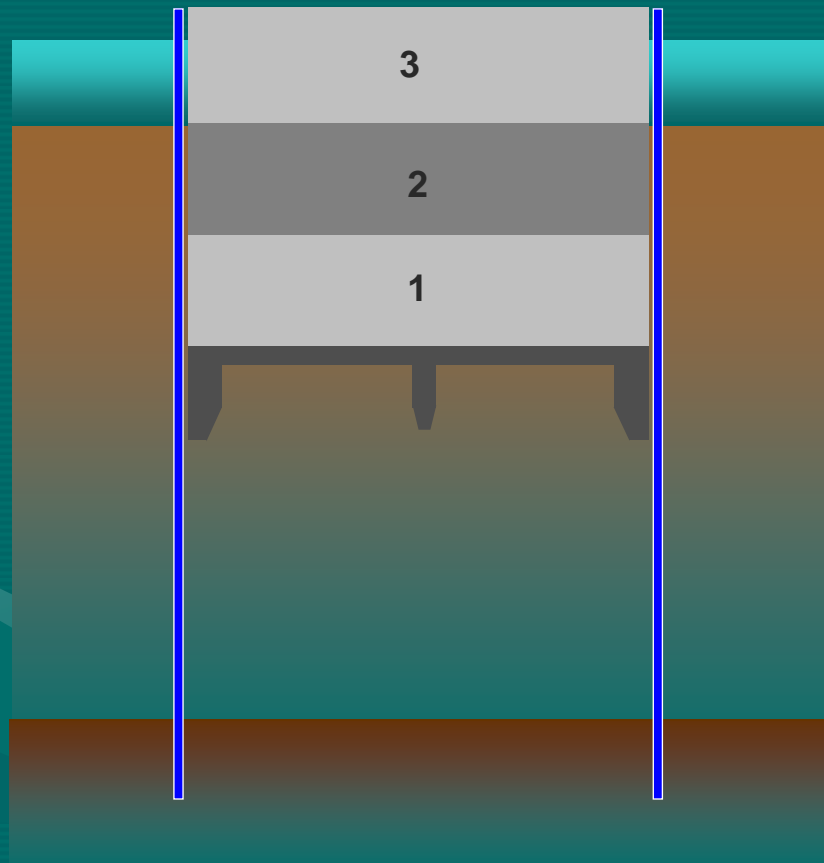
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 10:

Continue to dredge and sink the caisson

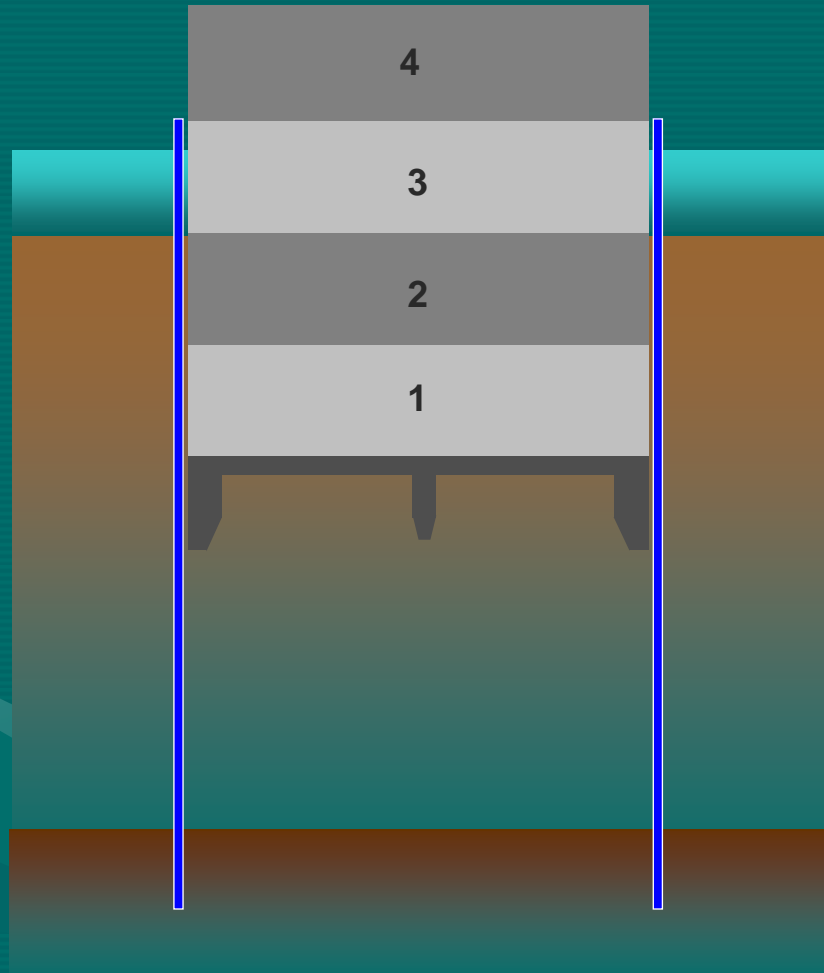




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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 11:

Cast Segment 4



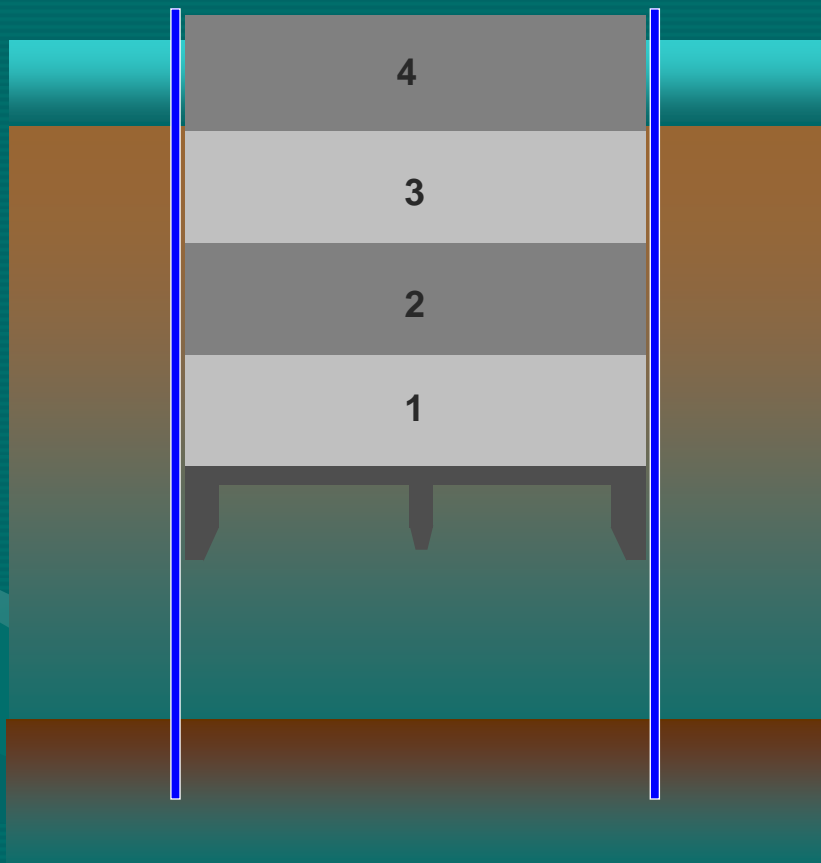
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 12:

Continue to dredge and sink the caisson



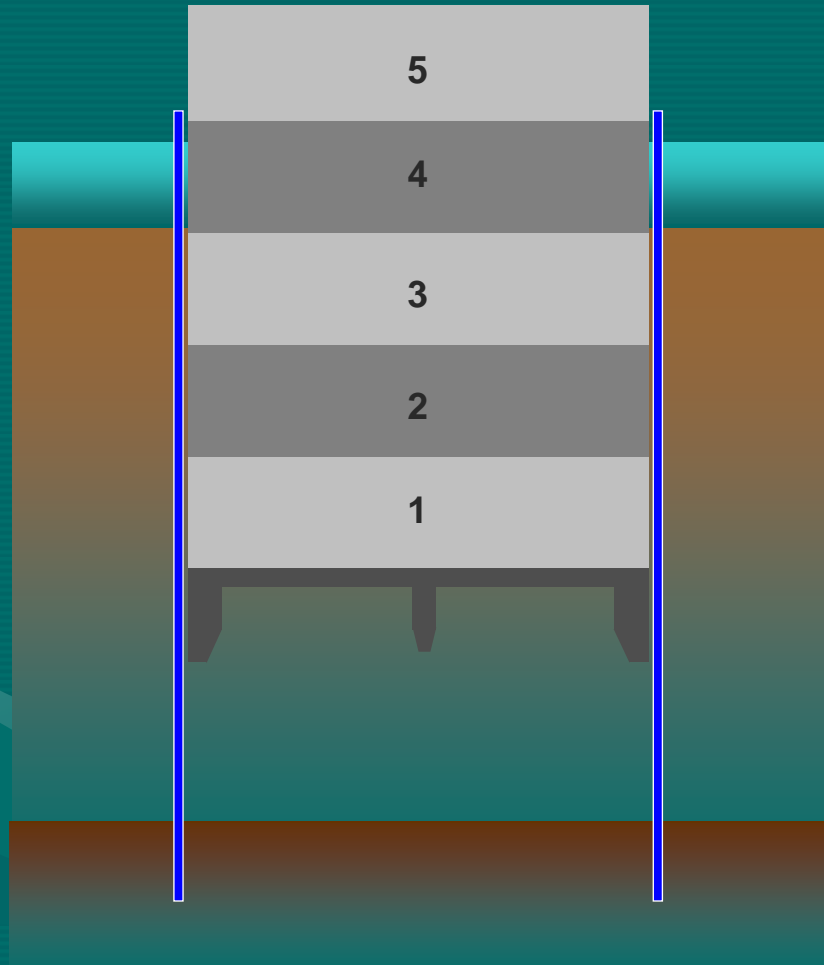




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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 13:

Cast Segment 5



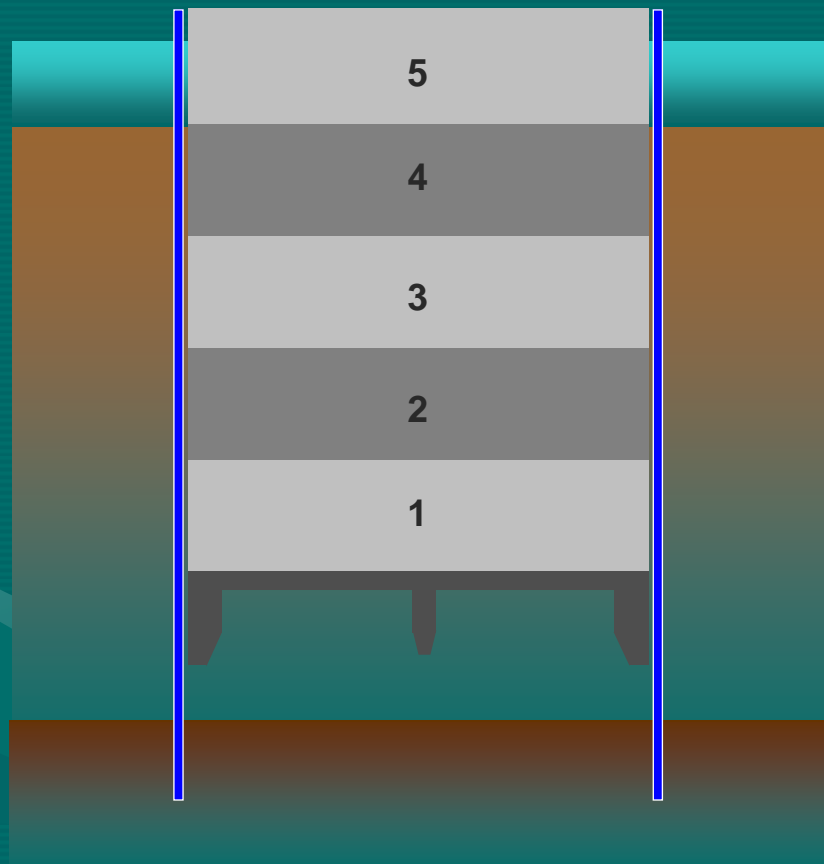
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 14:

Continue to dredge and sink caissons

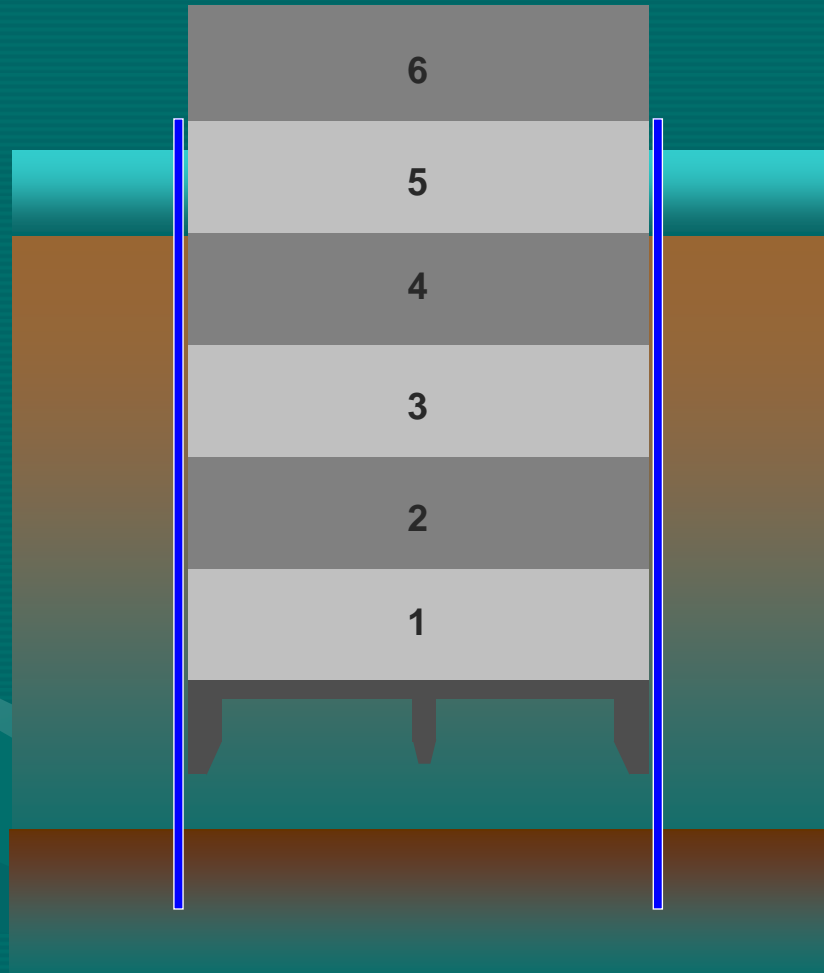




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Stage 14:

Cast Segment 6



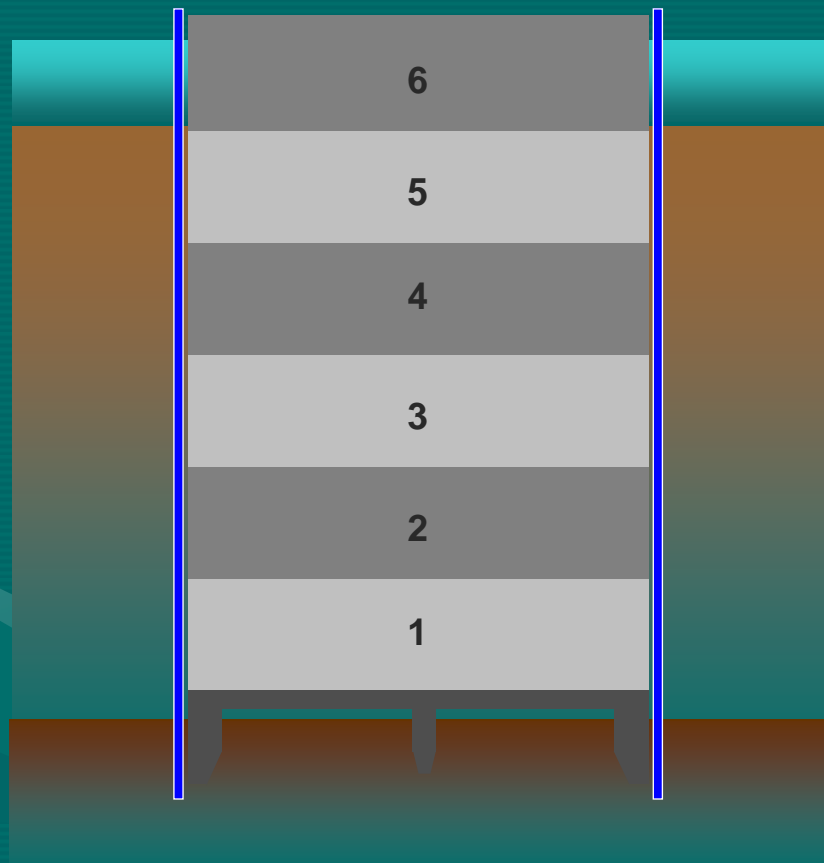
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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 15:

Continue to dredge and sink caissons to the final elevation





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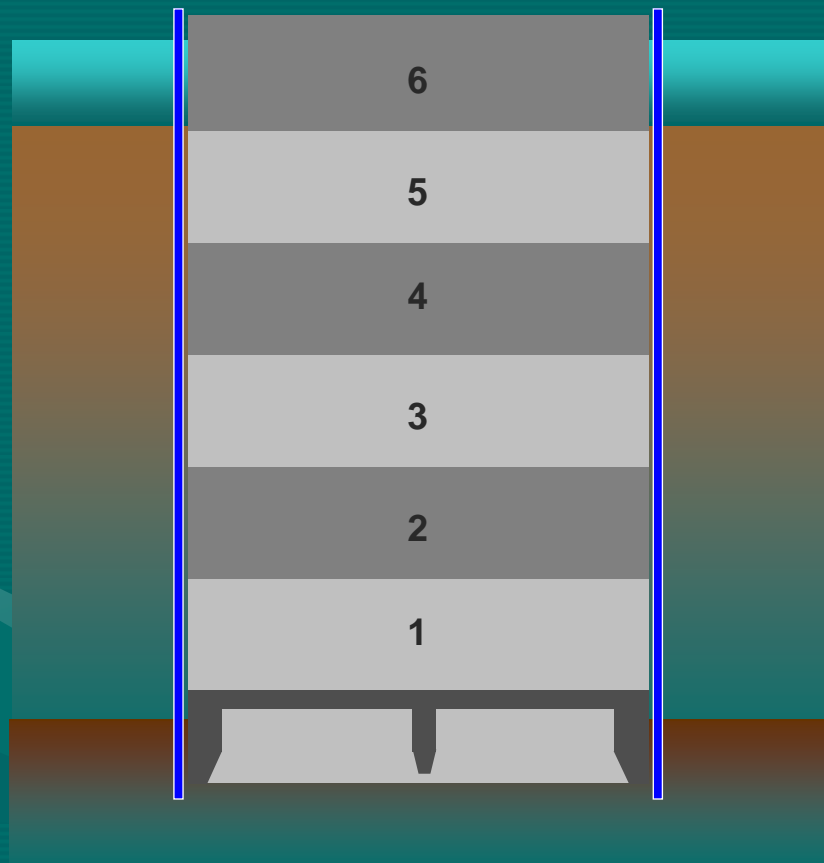
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Stage 16:

Clean bottom and cast concrete seal

Fill dredging wells

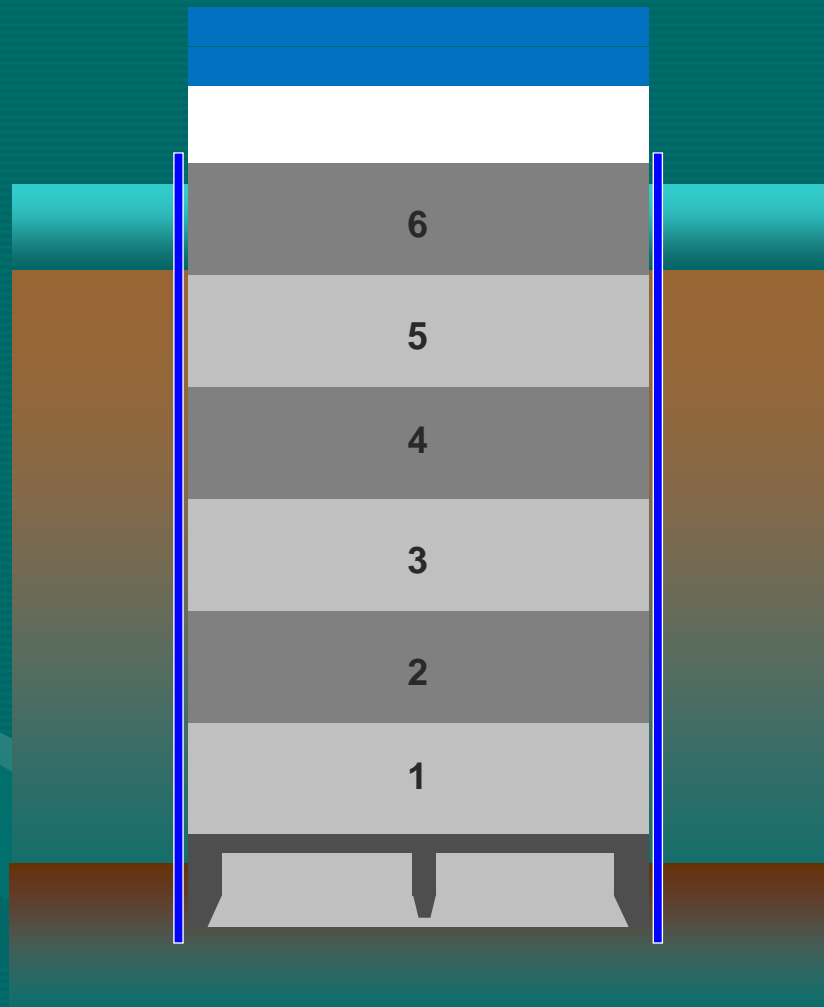




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Stage 17:

Cast distribution cap

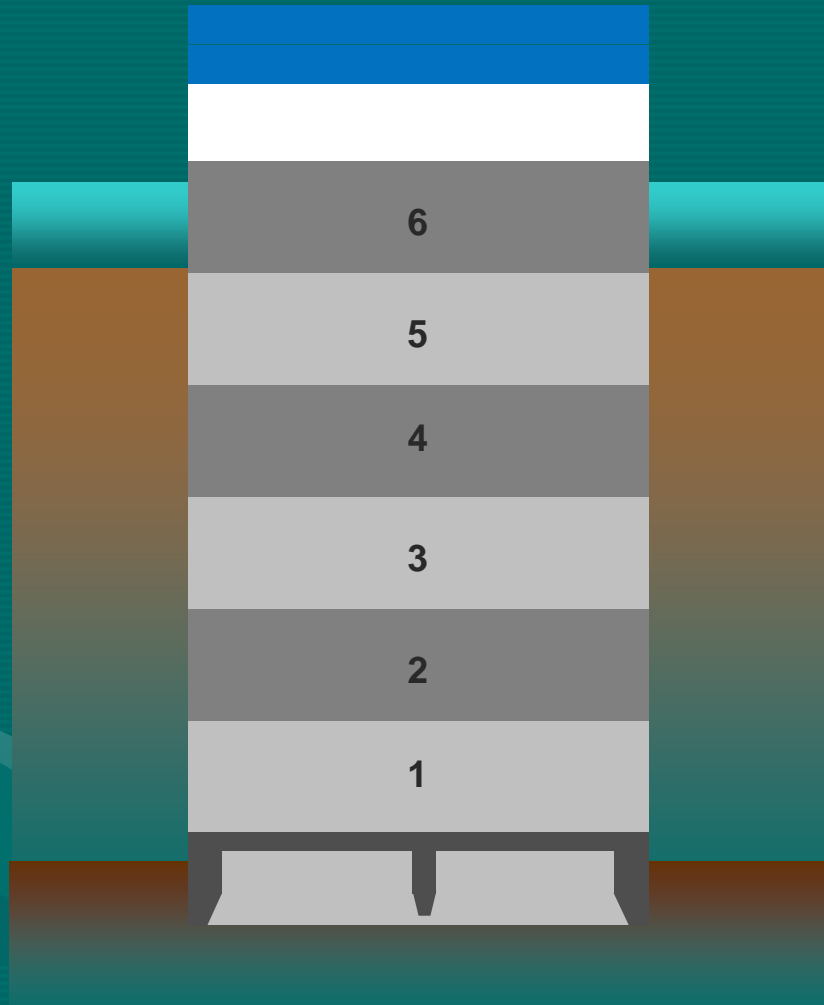
Start pier construction



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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 18:

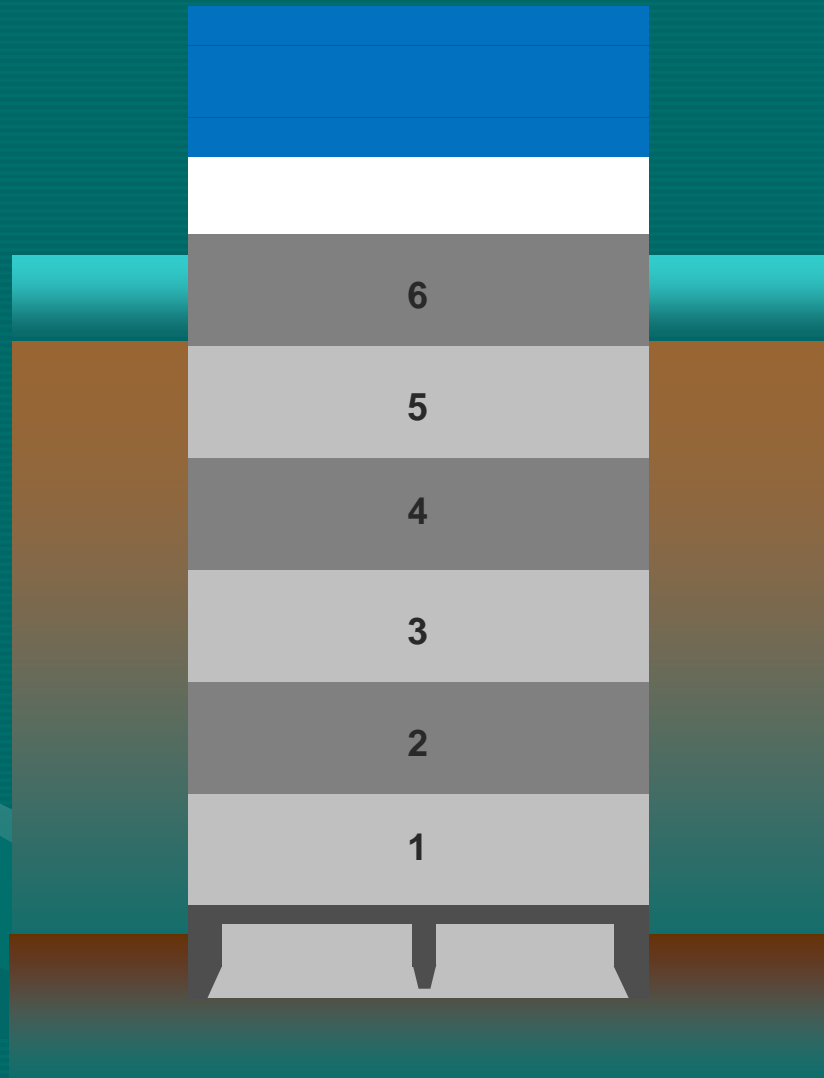
Remove sheet piles



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# Construction Sequence

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Stage 19:

Continue pier construction





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# Design Status

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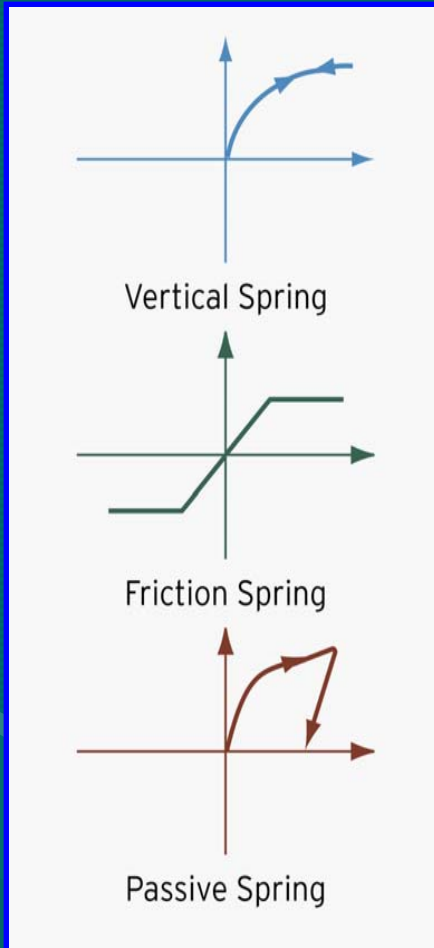
- Completed 70% design
- Working on the final design
- Going to advertisement in January, 2010
- King County applied for TIGER Fund



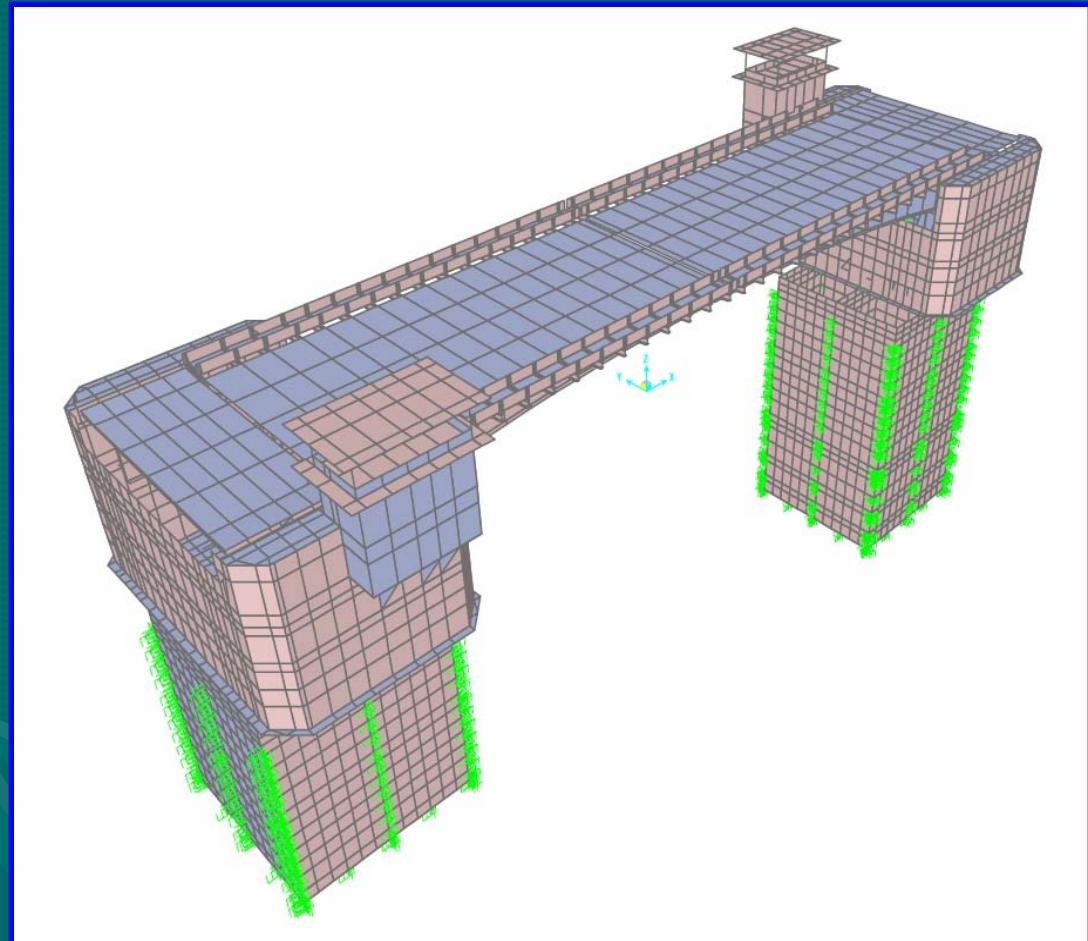
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# Current Seismic Model

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Springs



Global Model



# Conclusion

- Caisson Foundation was selected for
  - ✓ Seismic Performance
  - ✓ Environmental impact
  - ✓ Economy
  - ✓ Construction Schedule
  - ✓ Construction Risk
- Supported by Value Engineering Team



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# Acknowledgements

- Time Lane of King County
- Hubert Law of Earth Mechanics, Inc.
- Hisham Saredine of Shannon & Wilson, Inc.
- Rich Johnson of HNTB