

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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July 16, 2008

To whom it may concern:

From 2001 to 2007 I worked with Kiewit on the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge in Northern California. Part of the project required that 99 large diameter drilled shaft foundations be constructed up to depths of 300 feet in the middle of the Carquinez Strait. During performance of the shaft work, unexpected caving soil conditions were encountered, making traditional open hole drilling methods impossible and jeopardizing the completion of the project. The Kiewit project team, Caltrans Engineers, and Drilling Experts from around the United States performed a joint value analysis to strategize a solution which would allow the project to be completed. The only feasible solution was to utilize the rotator method for shaft construction. The Kiewit project team brought in Malcolm Drilling to form a composite group of very highly trained and experienced professionals who developed a plan to construct the shafts with a temporary casing. That had never been done on bridge foundations of this depth in a marine environment in North America. The result was successful completion of 99 drilled shafts, and a substantial reduction in risk to the project. Thanks to the effort and ability of Kiewit and Malcolm, the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge opened to traffic on August 25, 2007. From my experience with them, I have every confidence that the Kiewit/Malcolm team possesses the experience, ingenuity and resources required to construct deep foundations in any environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Forner".

Mike Forner
Principal Transportation Engineer
Cell Phone: (510) 774-6274