Municipal Pier (Aquatic Park Pier) Geohazard Survey

Project Summary

The "Geotechnical Boring Sampling of Aquatic Park Pier" project will assess the subsurface materials, and evaluate geologic and seismic hazards, within the immediate area around the Aquatic Park Pier. The project will also provide information about the size and length of new piles required for future replacement or repair of the Pier. Pending crew and equipment availability, the project will likely start in early December, 2019.

Work Description

The project, which could take up to fourteen days to complete, will sample in eight evenly-spaced locations along the length of the Pier. The Pier deck will be cored to allow a 5-inch diameter steel casing to be lowered into the Bay and guided to approximately 5 feet below mudline (to create a barrier between the drilling operation and Bay water). The top of the casing will be sealed with a rubber gasket. Samples will be taken at depths of 65 to 100 feet below the mudline. Four rotary wash borings and four cone penetrometer tests will be taken at each location. All drilling will occur inside the casing, with no direct contact with the Bay water or Bay floor. Project equipment will include a drill rig and two small pickup trucks, all staged on the Pier itself.

Specific Project Impacts

Sound

The activity will generate some in-air and underwater sound due to the intermittent and short-term operation of the drill rig. In-air noise levels associated with the drilling equipment is expected to be minor, and not exceed ambient noise conditions. Underwater noise will be negligible.

Habitat and Structure Disturbance

There will be no discharge of material, the casing will be removed when the geotechnical exploration is complete, and the small hole will silt in.

Water Quality

The borings will be lowered slowly under the Pier, minimizing the amount of sediment disturbed. Sheeting will be placed on the Pier at each boring location to prevent any materials from dropping directly onto the Pier, or into the water.