



**Northern California Chapter  
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute**

**Candidate Biographies & Statements  
2019 Election**

**For the Position of President-Elect:**

**Volkan Sevilgen**

Volkan Sevilgen is the Co-Founder and CTO of Temblor, Inc. Temblor, Inc. ([temblor.net](http://temblor.net)) is a Silicon Valley tech company building globally uniform seismic hazard and site amplification models that calculate seismic risk reduction benefits. For structural engineering companies and their clients, Temblor provides the Earthquake Score, as well as probabilistic and scenario earthquake losses, and retrofit benefits, for individual residential and commercial buildings that incorporate enhanced damage in landslide, liquefaction, and fault zones.

Volkan received an M.Sc. in Geophysical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) in 2006 following a B.Sc. from ITU in 2003. He worked at the USGS, Menlo Park between 2006 - 2014, where he co-authored, developed and taught the Coulomb 3 earthquake stress and deformation software, and managed a four-year probabilistic seismic hazard assessment for the Balkan countries funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. His studies on earthquake hazard and Coulomb stress interaction were published by Nature, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and other distinguished geophysics and seismology journals. He is a member of AGU and the EERI Northern California Chapter.

**For the Position of Secretary/Treasurer:**

**Bruce Maison**

I am running for the position of Secretary/Treasurer to help continue the success of the EERI Northern California Chapter in promoting ways to mitigate earthquake effects on society. I have previously served one term as Director on the board. I believe that the multi-disciplinary approach advocated by EERI best serves this critical need. If elected, I look forward to working with the other Board members from the various communities to guide the Chapter toward this mission.

I am presently a consulting engineer in El Cerrito, and registered as a Structural Engineer in California. I have over 30 years experience in earthquake engineering having worked at major water utility as well as consulting engineering firms. My background includes overseeing capital projects for seismic upgrades to water lifeline systems; executing seismic designs for homes and buildings; and performing system qualifications for nuclear power plants. My experience provides a broad understanding of earthquake design, construction, and mitigation.

I am an active participant on the SEAONC Existing Buildings Committee and have received the SEAONC Edwin Zacker Award for outstanding service to the structural engineering profession. My interests include structural dynamics as it relates to performance-based engineering, and I am a past recipient of the EERI Professional Fellowship to study with researchers at the E-Defense shake table in Japan. As a frequent contributor to the EERI *Earthquake Spectra* journal, I have received the EERI Outstanding Paper Award. I am also an active participant on the ASCE committee responsible for revisions to the ASCE/SEI 41 standard, *Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings*.

My education includes a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois, and a M.S. in Structural Engineering from the University of California.

## **For the Position of Director At Large:**

### **Debra Murphy**

Debra Murphy is a licensed professional engineer based out of Oakland, California, and a recent co-founder of Slate Geotechnical Consultants. She has more than a decade of consulting experience, a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. Her work focuses on geotechnical and earthquake engineering projects for sites throughout the United States and abroad for new and existing buildings, dams and offshore structures. Recently, she has worked closely with leaders in the seismic hazard field to implement advances in modeling which is complemented by her role as the chair of the Ground Motions Subcommittee for the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California. Debra is a member of the 2017 class of EERI Housner Fellows and is honored to have the opportunity to continue giving back to EERI and the seismic community.

### **Mehmet Unal**

Mehmet Unal is working at CoreLogic in Oakland as a Principal Scientist in the Catastrophe Risk Modeling team. His main responsibility is developing earthquake vulnerability models for CoreLogic's loss estimation software, which is mostly used by the insurance industry.

Mehmet is a member of the EERI Northern California Chapter, EERI Younger Members Committee (YMC) and the Virtual Earthquake Reconnaissance Team (VERT) for the last three years. During this time, he served as the coordinator of the YMC events held in the last two EERI Annual Meetings and contributed to seven VERT reports. If elected for the director position, Mehmet is looking forward to taking the lead in organizing joint events with

other EERI groups and chapters and also improving opportunities for young professionals within the chapter and the institute.

Mehmet holds a PhD degree in civil engineering, earned in December 2015 from Penn State University. His PhD research focused on developing sequential decision-making frameworks for resilient building designs and infrastructure networks. His research culminated in several publications, one of which was in the Earthquake Spectra Journal.

## **Donald Wells**

Donald Wells is a Principal Engineering Geologist more than 30 years of experience in assessing seismic and geologic hazards currently with Fugro, and previously with Wood/Amec Foster Wheeler/Geomatrix Consultants, in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Wells' career as a consulting engineering geologist has focused on evaluation and mitigation of seismic and geologic hazards. He has performed extensive research of the effects and source parameters of historical earthquakes worldwide and has published widely cited papers that present methodologies for performing fault rupture hazard and fault displacement hazard assessments. Mr. Wells has participated in numerous post-earthquake earthquake reconnaissance missions in California and elsewhere in the U.S. and around the World.

Mr. Wells has been a member of the Northern California Chapter of EERI since it was formed in 2001. He was the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of COSMOS (Consortium of Organizations for Strong Motion Observations Systems) from 2010 to 2019. He is a registered Professional Geologist and Engineering Geologist in California; long ago, he obtained a M.S. in Geological Sciences from San Diego State University in California, and a B.A. in Geology from Hamilton College in New York.

He is honored to have the opportunity to bring his experience and knowledge to support and guide the Northern California Chapter in its mission of improving the understanding the impacts of earthquakes, and promoting measures to mitigate harmful effects of earthquakes.