

Contractor Case Study

In 2012, Helfrich-Associates was hired to perform engineering services at a property located in La Jolla, CA. The home was experiencing foundation distress, due to slope movement. Helfrich-Associates was brought in to do the following:

1. Research available soils and geologic reports.
2. Perform subsurface exploration to a depth of about 60 feet on the property.
3. Perform laboratory testing of the strength and compressibility properties of the recovered samples.
4. Perform slope stability and slope anchor calculations to develop design recommendations for the repairs.
5. Prepare a geologic/geotechnical report for the proposed repairs.

According to inclinometer readings made between December 2007 and 2010, approximately 32 feet of the hillside was moving north (downslope). One of the challenges Helfrich-Associates faced was designing a repair system to control the effects of slope creep on the home.

Since 2012, Helfrich-Associates has designed repairs for four other homes on the same street that were experiencing the same foundation distress.

As of September 2014, two of the homes have been successfully stabilized and we are analyzing conditions at two additional homes. Expected completion of the homes under analysis is January 2015.