NEWS RELEASE

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TEN-STORY BUILDING DESIGNED TO SPAN 80-FOOT-DEEP FILLED CANYON

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. – April 30, 2001 – *Is it possible to construct a 10-story building over an 80-foot-deep canyon filled with unstable soil? Could this land support a high-rise structure during an earthquake?* Lowney Associates knows first-hand from the firm's geotechnical design work at Dewey Land Company's Serramonte Corporate Center development.

Essentially, the 324,000 square-foot office building will be wedged into the hillside. The structure's lower four floors will be underground on one side and above ground on the other side. These four floors will accommodate a parking garage and recreational facilities below the six floors of office space.

This challenging 2-acre site required an innovative building foundation design. Since the ground is neither level, nor stable, Lowney recommended a pier foundation that would help reduce structural damage during an earthquake or excessive rain. A pier foundation is created by drilling deep holes into the ground and filling them with steel-reinforced concrete. Alternatively, at uncomplicated flat sites, shallow foundations typically are used.

Pier foundations recently were completed and building construction is ongoing.

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Founded in Santa Clara County in 1969, Lowney Associates provides geotechnical and environmental engineering services. The firm specializes in building foundations, earthwork construction, environmental studies and cleanups, and construction services. With office locations in Mountain View, Oakland, San Ramon and Fullerton, Lowney provides services throughout California and the West.