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Earthquakes having no effect on Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre

Recent earthquakes and aftershocks in Canterbury with sizable shakes being recorded in Timaru in September and in February have had no apparent effect on the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre, presently under construction on Maori Park, Timaru.

Architects Boon Goldsmith Bhaskar Brebner Team Architects and project manager Ian Martin have recently inspected the site with build contractors Ranger Construction to find no noticeable damage or subsidence as a result of the earthquakes.

Timaru District Council district services manager Ashley Harper said today that even though some wall panels appeared supported with braces, the bracing was a normal part of the construction process and not related directly to earthquake protection.

“The entire construction process is sequential. Each component is designed to be self-supporting until the final locking together gives the building its strength. Bracing holds the panels in line and in plumb to allow for the final lock-in of ceiling beams and panels,” Mr Harper said.

“The public can be assured that a stringent inspection process is part of the normal construction brief as work progresses and there have been no issues of a geotechnical nature immediately apparent as a result of the earthquakes.”

He said the safety of workers on the site was not being compromised on the site by earthquakes “because the whole safety aspect was part of a thorough and complex approach by Ranger Construction, which takes into account all conceivable hazards”.

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