

MiTek offers Prefabricated Special Moment Frames, Prefabricated Shear Panels, Connectors, and Epoxy anchorage solutions for the new “Soft Story” strengthening ordinances.

California Building Jurisdictions are Adopting Ordinances That Require Retrofitting Wood-Frame Apartment Complexes to Strengthen First Floors Minimizing Damage, Reducing Disruption to Residents and Preventing Loss of Life.

MiTek offers a range of solutions to allow professional and structural engineers to design retrofit solutions that comply with new ordinances that have been adopted in Northern and Southern California metropolitan areas. The ordinances being adopted require structural retrofitting of buildings described as “soft-story structures.” The soft story conditions are those that are built over first floor carports where there are large openings and very little structural support to resist the lateral forces of earthquakes. In the city of Los Angeles alone, an estimated 13,500 apartment complexes have been identified as needing strengthening to prevent the building from collapsing, according to the [LA Times](#). Building owners in LA City have been given seven years to complete the upgrades.



Similar laws have been adopted in the San Francisco and East Bay areas. ([Link to City and County of San Francisco Department of Building Inspections Mandatory Soft Story Program.](#)) Additionally, the Los Angeles and San Francisco Building Departments are often seen as leaders at improving building safety standards that are then adopted

by neighboring jurisdictions. It is expected the new seismic strengthening ordinances will be considered for adoption by other building jurisdictions in the very near future.

MiTek has long offered a series of products to specifically address the soft-story retrofit challenges and was already prepared to meet the strengthening challenges that also provide the benefits of delivering a low-disruption solution at the lowest possible costs. To bring building owners in compliance with the law, MiTek offers the [Hardy Frame Shear Wall System that includes Prefabricated Panels, Prefabricated Special Moment Frames, USP Structural Connectors](#), and the [CIA GEL7000-C epoxy](#). By designing with these and other MiTek products, the Engineer of Record is specifying products that are readily available



in the construction industry that enable contractors to buy standardized, locally available products to retrofit soft-story structures with at the least cost with the minimum disruption to the residents and with the best results to strengthen the

structure. Additionally, with the Hardy Frame Special Moment Frame, famous for light weight and minimal member sizes, parking spaces are not lost as they might be with other structural steel solutions.