ACI Fall 2024 Convention – Philadelphia, PA

## Sustainable Portland Limestone Cement-Based (Ultra) High-Performance Concrete



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3.2 billion people lives within 60 mi of the coast

## Urban coastal areas exposed to climate change and sea level rise effects



#### United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2024 (CPI-Adjusted)

## 273 climate disasters > \$ 1 B (since 1980)









## Enhancing coastal resilience

#### SEAHIVE<sup>™</sup> hybrid reef system technology

The 18-foot-long honeycomb UHPC structure is the modular element of the system It will help restore damaged coral reefs and protect shorelines



https://cae.coe.miami.edu/research/seahive/index.html

## From the cradle to reality Timeline for the 3 pilot projects





## Materials:

- NSC •
- UHPC •
- 3DPC



# Improve reinforced concrete coastal infrastructures' performance by developing new materials and designs



Improve reinforced concrete coastal infrastructures' performance by developing new materials and designs



## **Materials**



FIBERS

Sf = Steel fibers Pf = Polyethylene fibers SPf = Steel/polyethylene fibers

#### Quantities in kg/m<sup>3</sup>

| Mixture       | Dry mix<br>UHPC | PLC | UL  | FA  | SL  | Sand | HRWR<br>(2%) | Water<br>(w/cm=0.2) | Sf<br>(1-2%) | Pf<br>(1-2%) |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Comm-UHPC     | 2170            | -   | -   | -   | -   | -    | 23           | 206                 | 153          | -            |
| 10UL-20FA-Sf  | -               | 714 | 102 | 204 | -   | 1022 | 20           | 204                 | 157          | -            |
| 10UL-20FA-SPf | -               | 714 | 102 | 204 | -   | 1022 | 20           | 204                 | 78           | 10           |
| 10UL-20FA-Pf  | -               | 714 | 102 | 204 | -   | 1022 | 20           | 204                 | -            | 20           |
| 10UL-25SL-Pf  | -               | 664 | 102 | -   | 255 | 1022 | 20           | 204                 | -            | 20           |
| 10UL-Pf       | -               | 916 | 102 | -   | -   | 1022 | 20           | 204                 | -            | 20           |





- All the newly developed formulations perform better than Comm. UHPC.
- SCM's fineness and reaction help to decrease capillary pressure, better controlling shrinkage
- SL outperformed FA, possibly due to higher SL's SO<sub>3</sub> content leading to greater chemical expansion, mitigating autogenous (Tangtermsirikul, 1998)



## Compressive strength

### Fibers effects

- Sf perform better than Pf
- 2% Sf content positively impact strength (Le Hoang et al., 2010)
- Pf dispersion
   issues may have
   led to premature
   failure
   (Meng et al., 2018)

## Avg and St. Dev. values

Mixture • Comm-UHPC • 10UL-20FA-Sf • 10UL-20FA-SPf • 10UL-20FA-Pf • 10UL-25SL-Pf • 10UL-Pf



## Hydration effects

- UL contributes with filler effect
- SL latent hydraulic nature benefits strength more at early ages
- FA mixtures show continuous increase due to pozzolanic reaction
   CONCRETE

## cubes or cylinders?

## plastic or steel molds?

VS.





Cubes are an acceptable alternative to cylinders to determine UHPC compressive strength

• UHPC cubes are sensitive to geometry imperfections and end preparations

**CONVENTIO** 

10UL-20FA-Sf exceed 120 MPa at 28 days, meeting UHPC's standard strength definition 

## Flexural strength





- Deflection hardening behavior achieved by every mixture
- Sf reinforced mixtures developed higher flexural peak strengths, while Pf fibers provide a better post-first peak strain capacity

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ONVFN<sup>-</sup>

NCRETE

• 10UL-20FA-SPf shows fiber synergistic effects, increasing strength and toughness

## **Sustainability**



- All the newly developed formulations showed a significantly lower carbon footprint than the Comm. UHPC
- PLC based UHPCs performance are closer to NSC than Comm. UHPC, in terms of GWP



- Isothermal calorimetry showed similar reaction kinetics for all mixtures
- TGA showed that SL and FA containing mixtures exhibited higher calcium hydroxide consumption than the one containing UL only
- Sf reinforced mixtures showed a self-compacting behavior, while the workability of Pf reinforced ones was impacted by the properties of the fiber
- SCMs notably enhanced the electrical resistivity of UHPCs, particularly at later ages

More details @ DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.24215.79529



## Thank



Luca Galli Ph.D. candidate, University of Miami



Let's connect Acknowledgments



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