

Response to Reviewer RC3

We sincerely thank the reviewer for their positive and encouraging assessment of our work.

Comment 1: This manuscript presents a comprehensive and well-structured field-based investigation of the seismic performance of reinforced concrete buildings affected by the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquake sequence. The study combines structural and geotechnical observations from a large affected region and provides valuable insights into the behavior of both older and newer reinforced concrete buildings under extreme near-fault ground motions. The manuscript is clearly organized, and the objectives, methodology, results, and conclusions are logically presented. The comparison between conventional damage mechanisms in older buildings and the emerging vulnerabilities observed in modern code-era buildings is particularly valuable. The integration of structural engineering and geotechnical evaluations offers a comprehensive perspective that enhances the scientific contribution of the work. The field observations are extensive and are supported by high-quality photographic documentation and an up-to-date review of the relevant literature. The discussion effectively relates the observed damage mechanisms to seismic design practice, construction quality, and implementation issues, leading to meaningful engineering implications for future seismic resilience. Overall, the manuscript represents a significant contribution to post-earthquake reconnaissance literature and provides important lessons for seismic design, construction practice, and disaster mitigation. The study is technically sound, scientifically rigorous, and suitable for publication in its current form.

Response 1: We sincerely thank the reviewer for their positive assessment and encouraging comments. We note that, in response to the detailed comments received from Reviewers RC1, RC2, and RC4, we will make a number of revisions to the manuscript (language and clarity edits, an expanded Methods section, more cautious causal language, an expanded Introduction, and a reorganized Section 2.1) which we believe will further strengthen the manuscript without altering the study's core findings or contribution that the reviewer has kindly recognized.