

## Glossary

1. ***Racking Shear***-Failure due to racking shear is characterized by diagonal cracks which could be due to diagonal compression or diagonal tension. Such failure may be either through the pattern of joints or diagonally through masonry units.
2. ***Weathering***- Weathering is the breaking down of rocks, soil, and minerals as well as wood and artificial materials through contact with the Earth's atmosphere, waters, and biological organisms. Weathering occurs in situ, that is, in the same place, with little or no movement.
3. ***Liquefaction***-Soil liquefaction describes a phenomenon whereby a saturated or partially saturated soil substantially loses strength and stiffness in response to an applied stress, usually earthquake shaking or other sudden change in stress condition, causing it to behave like a liquid.