A Recent Example of a Difficult Project Management Approach

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Project Purpose

Funding Source: USGS
PI’s: Me and Jon Stewart
Duration: 2 yrs, 2 tests
Model Construction Staff

Alek Harounian, UCLA Student
Lijun Deng, UCD Student
DongSoon Park, UCD Student
Chad Justice, nees@UCDavis
Jason Goff, UCLA
Shaun the Sheep
Model Construction Sequence
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• Alek was taking courses at UCLA during model construction and could only be in Davis intermittently.

• The original plan was to have Alek begin consolidation of each lift of clay, and subsequently have Lijun, DongSoon, and/or Chad adjust consolidation pressure.

• Lijun was paid from project for one quarter, and DongSoon was paid by nees@UCDavis to help optimize consolidation system.
• Alek could not be in Davis as often as needed during model construction, and too much of the responsibility was borne by Lijun and DongSoon.

• Who was ultimately in charge of the model became unclear as Lijun and DongSoon increased their involvement (at the expense of their own PhD studies).

• The test was ultimately very successful, but I would never do it this way again.
• The person responsible for the project (student or postdoc) cannot effectively take charge of the project remotely, and if possible should plan to be in Davis during model construction.
Thank You