



State Of California

# SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



Lawrence Klein  
*Utilities  
Chairman*

Dr. Lucy Jones  
*Seismology*

Hon. Richard Alarcon  
*State Senate*

Saeed Ali  
*Senate Representative*

Hon. Mark Church  
*County Supervisor  
Local Government*

Dr. Bruce Clark  
*Geology*

Hon. Carol Liu  
*State Assembly*

Donald Manning  
*Assembly Representative*

Celestine Palmer  
*Insurance*

Daniel Shapiro  
*Structural Engineering*

Keith Wheeler  
*Emergency Services*

Gary McGavin  
*Architectural Planning*

Jeff Sedivec  
*Fire Protection*

Dennis Mileti  
*(Social Services)*

Arul Arulmoli  
*(Soils Engineer)*

Richard McCarthy  
*Executive Director*

Seismic Safety Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 9, 2006  
State Capitol, Room 444  
Sacramento, California

## Members Participating

Lawrence T. Klein, Chair  
Saeed Ali/Senator Richard Alarcon  
Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli  
Bruce Clark  
Don Manning  
Dennis Mileti  
Daniel Shapiro  
Keith Wheeler

## Members Absent

Jeff Sedivec, Vice Chair  
Mark Church  
Lucy Jones  
Gary McGavin  
Celestine Palmer

## Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director  
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant  
Robert Anderson, Staff Geologist  
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer  
Henry Sepulveda, Director of Legislation  
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

## I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Lawrence Klein called the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

## II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Klein introduced and welcomed Mr. Saeed Ali, Senator Alarcon's new representative on the Commission.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 5, 2006

**ACTION:** Commissioner Dan Shapiro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keith Wheeler, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the January 5, 2006 meeting as presented.*

\* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

## **January 12, 2006**

Chairman Klein proposed a minor clarification: on Page 2, second paragraph, second line, he suggested inserting “some of the” between “because” and “other Commission functions.”

**ACTION:** Commissioner Bruce Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Don Manning, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the January 12, 2006 meeting as amended.*

\* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

## **February 9, 2006**

Commissioner Shapiro drew attention to the first paragraph under “Advances in Earthquake Engineering” on Page 2 and noted Mr. Nabih Youssef’s name was misspelled.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Dennis Mileti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kandiah Arulmoli, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the February 9, 2006 meeting as amended.*

\* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

## **Recognition of Commission Court Reporter**

Executive Director Richard McCarthy thanked and recognized Ms. Cynthia Judy for her outstanding work in preparing minutes of Commission meetings for nearly twenty years. He praised Ms. Judy’s abilities and presented her with a clock with an engraved inscription.

## **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Out of Order)**

### **Budget**

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the latest budget updates and noted expenditures appear to be on track.

### **Response to State and Consumer Services Agency**

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission’s current funding source through the Department of Insurance will sunset in July of 2007, and the office space lease will expires in May of 2007. The Commission needs to either find a new source of funding and get the necessary legislation passed or prepare for shutdown and layoffs soon.

## **Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Invitation**

Ms. Patricia Sutch, Executive Director, WSSPC, extended an invitation for the Commission to join WSSPC. She explained that this organization is an earthquake consortium funded by FEMA, and its goal is to reduce earthquake losses by facilitating meetings and providing forums where people can exchange information and share ideas about programs. Ms. Sutch said WSSPC held two meetings with state seismic boards in recent years and decided it would be beneficial to the organization to invite all state boards and commissions to join.

Ms. Sutch added that there are no membership fees, and WSSPC can pay some travel expenses for attending the annual conference. She requested that the Seismic Safety Commission designate a voting member to join the organization.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mileti, that:

*The Commission accept the invitation to join WSSPC as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

## **Website Update**

Mr. Robert Anderson described recent enhancements to the Commission's Website, including simpler drop-down menus, announcements for new postings, and a link to the California Geological Survey (CGS) for earthquake information. He reported there were 151,000 hits as of February. He pointed out trends in activity immediately after earthquakes, and said the *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* (HOG) has been the most popular document.

## **FEMA Appeal**

Mr. McCarthy reported that there had been no news on the Commission's FEMA appeal.

## **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Commercial Property Owner's Guide Committee***

Commissioner Shapiro reported that the committee and staff have been working to change the format of the *Commercial Property Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* (COG) to be consistent with the HOG format. He said there will be new material on non-structural components and furnishings, and some of the other information is being updated.

## **VI. LEGISLATION REPORT**

Mr. Henry Sepulveda reported that February 24 was the deadline for introducing bills. He drew attention to his handout summarizing relevant bills by topics. Mr. Sepulveda said the Legislative Advisory Committee met, reviewed pending legislation, and recommends that the Commission place its highest priority this year on SB 1278, providing a funding source for the Commission, and bills pertaining to the Field Act.

Mr. Sepulveda reviewed three Field Act-related bills: AB 2410 (Runner), which exempts one specific building from the Field Act; SB 1290 (Ducheny), requiring off-site community college buildings to comply with the Field Act, military standards, or California Building Code; and SB 1652 (Vincent), a spot bill that is currently a technical amendment to the Field Act as it applies to community college facilities. He said the Legislative Advisory Committee is not recommending any positions yet.

Mr. Sepulveda referred to the copy of Assembly concurrent Resolution No. 121 (Blakeslee) and said the intent is to present a resolution at the mega-conference in April. He noted ACR 121 will be amended to address delta levees. He said Assembly Member Liu and Senator Alarcon are principal co-authors.

Commissioner Ali commented that ACR 121 is going through an expedited process, with a hearing on March 16 followed by a full vote on the floor.

Chairman Klein questioned why ACR 121 refers to Risk Management Solutions, Inc., a private organization. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the author wanted to cite a source of data; he added that Commissioner Lucy Jones verified that RMS was an appropriate source. Commissioner Shapiro said similar work has been done on a San Francisco CAPS program project. Mr. Sepulveda stated that he would bring this to Assembly Member Blakeslee's attention.

Mr. Sepulveda recommended that the Commission authorize a formal letter of support for ACR 121 and encourage DRC members to send support letters as well.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Ali made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Manning, that:

*The Commission convey its support for ACR 121 as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

## **VII. SFPUC Water Delivery Project Seismic Retrofit**

Chairman Klein noted that he had retired as the assistant manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). He commended the SFPUC and Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) staff for their hard work on this project.

Chairman Klein said the SFPUC's revised retrofit plan is based on a probabilistic risk analysis and sets out ambitious new service goals. He observed there is still considerable planning that needs to be done and unforeseen delays that may occur.

Chairman Klein noted BAWSCA's written comments express concern about the balance between more thorough studies and the need to get work done as quickly as possible. He said his biggest question concerns the acceptability of the projected loss of service times for water customers. He pointed out SFPUC expects to be able to deliver water to 70 percent of its system turnouts after an earthquake. He asked if the SFPUC's water customers have hardened their own systems and installed the necessary interconnections.

Chairman Klein drew attention to the SFPUC's written answers to questions asked by the Commission. He asked commissioners to focus particularly on the responses regarding earthquake magnitude assumptions, and he invited discussion of that issue.

Commissioner Mileti asked why a magnitude 7.9 event on the San Andreas Fault was used instead of the 1906 earthquake magnitude. Commissioner Clark explained that 7.9 is what experts now believe was the size of the 1906 earthquake. Commissioner Mileti said he understood the magnitude of a cataclysmic earthquake in the Bay Area is still less than the magnitude potential in southern California, and Commissioner Clark confirmed that point.

Assembly Member Richard Ruskin expressed his appreciation to the Seismic Safety Commission for its work in protecting the people of the Bay Area and the entire state. He noted the safety and reliability of the water system is a critical issue for all the people along the Hetch Hetchy system. He acknowledged that the Commission plays a vital role in its independent oversight, and he offered his assistance and support.

Chairman Klein thanked Assembly Member Ruskin for his comments. He said the Commission understands the importance of this project. He observed that the SFPUC actually serves only 40 customers or less, so local systems are the key to safety and earthquake response. He emphasized the importance of strengthening distribution systems, connections, and storage.

Commissioner Clark proposed that the Commission take a step back and consider the scope of its review. He noted the SFPUC retrofit program is a very complicated series of projects, a number of which cross major faults in California, so a thorough review is essential. He recommended sticking with the original legislative charge to the Commission.

Commissioner Clark indicated he had formulated a list of guideline questions to help frame the Commission's review:

- 1) Does the retrofit program increase or decrease the likelihood that customer will receive water after an earthquake?
- 2) How did the SFPUC arrive at its graphs and conclusions that the program will be safer? What standards were applied?
- 3) Is the analysis of seismic hazards adequate?
- 4) Are the levels of fragility and vulnerability of facilities analyzed appropriately?
- 5) Does the analysis lead to reasonable conclusions?
- 6) Do individual task changes increase or decrease risk to the overall system?

Commissioner Clark suggested that the committee review the program using these questions, and then report back to the full Commission. He added that the April 17 deadline may be very difficult, and he recommended seeking an extension if necessary.

Mr. McCarthy agreed that the SFPUC retrofit was extremely complicated for a 90-day review window. He suggested that the Commission start communicating its concern about the deadline now.

Commissioner Shapiro said he shared Commissioner Clark's view that the Commission should confine its review to the charge specified in the bill.

Mr. Arthur Jensen, Bay Area Water SC Association (BAWSCA), said BAWSCA consists of 20 member agencies that purchase water from the SFPUC. Because the Hetch Hetchy system serves 2.4 million people, 60-day disruptions in service will cost billions of dollars. Mr. Jensen added that San Francisco, under Mayor Gavin Newsom's leadership, and the SFPUC's wholesale customers are highly motivated to make sure their systems are safe.

Mr. Jensen discussed some of the key points from his February 23 letter. He said the SFPUC report appears to minimize the impacts of delays. He pointed out that although the overall program will be finished two years earlier than the original plans, only 20 percent versus 50 percent of the work will be completed by 2010, and eight of nine significant projects will be delayed. He recommended that the Commission look at the proposed schedule as well as the SFPUC's potential to meet the schedule.

## **VIII. PLANNING FOR APRIL COMMISSION MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Mr. McCarthy introduced Dr. Jack Moehle, Director, Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center, and invited him to brief the Commission on plans for the mega-conference in April.

Dr. Moehle noted the conference is a joint effort of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Seismological Society of America, and Disaster Resistant California. He distributed flyers with information about the conference agenda and special programs. He said the four-day event will have a different theme each day: commemoration of 1906, learning from the past, assessing the present, and preparing for the future. Each day will start with a plenary session, and then there will be concurrent sessions, tutorials, field trips, policy events, and social activities. Dr. Moehle noted about 1800 research papers will be delivered in 161 oral sessions.

## **IX. REPORT BY STATE ARCHITECT**

State Architect David Thorman introduced himself and described his background as an architect and as a construction and program manager. He said his goals for the Division of the State Architect (DSA) include providing better services, with more timely, consistent and accurate plan reviews; filling critical staff vacancies; revitalizing communications with stakeholders; collaborating with community colleges; launching the DSA Academy to train staff and consultants and provide resources for others; continuing the excellence program; and working on amendments and code updates in preparation for California's adoption of the 2006 International Building Code. As longer-term goals, Mr. Thorman identified fully electronic offices, balanced resources and workload, and a statewide built environmental policy.

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF MEETING**

There were no other matters brought to the Commission's attention.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Sue Celli  
Office Manager

Approved by:

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Richard McCarthy  
Executive Director