



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Teleconference Meeting
September 11, 2008
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Don Parker, Chair
Mark Church, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman
Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee (joined at 2:30 p.m.)
Jonathan Changus (joined at 2:12 p.m.)
William Chubb
Ken Cooley
Christina Curry
Lucy Jones
Sharron Leason
John Littrell
Gary McGavin (joined at 2:50 p.m.)
Dennis Mileti (joined at 2:07 p.m.)
Brad Mitzelfelt
Ali Sadre
Michael Stevens

Members Absent

Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli
Elizabeth Mathieson
James Schwab
David Thorman
David Walls

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant
Larry Rillera, Director of Legislative Affairs
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Don Parker called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 2:05 p.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Parker recognized the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and reminded commissioners and audience members of their important impacts on emergency preparedness and response activities.

Chairman Parker proposed deferring the Nominations Committee report until Commissioner Gary McGavin joined the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 14, 2008 MEETING MINUTES (Out of Order)

Commissioner Ali Sadre pointed out that the reference to “2006 IBS” on Page 4 should be changed to “2001 CBC.”

ACTION: Commissioner Ken Cooley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sadre, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the August 14 Commission meeting as amended.

* Motion carried, 13 – 0 (Commissioners Jonathan Changus and McGavin absent during voting).

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Budget

Executive Director Richard McCarthy asked Director of Legislative Affairs Larry Rillera to provide an update on the budget impasse.

Mr. Rillera advised that the sides were still far apart in resolving key budget issues, and it could be a long time until a state budget is signed. He said the governor has announced he will not be making personal appearances or signing any other bills until the budget is approved.

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission will have no spending authority until the governor signs a budget, and the extent of cuts to the Agency has not yet been determined. He reported that the Commission’s research fund was still intact.

Final FEMA Deobligation Payment

Mr. McCarthy informed the Commission that the remaining \$3,800 due to OES as reimbursement for the amounts paid to the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be paid once the state budget is signed.

Briefing on AB 1632 Progress

Mr. McCarthy noted that AB 1632 (Blakeslee) directs the California Energy Commission (CEC) to undertake an investigation into the reliability of California’s nuclear power plants. He said the Seismic Safety Commission plays an advisory role, and the staff has been participating in the process.

Senior Structural Engineer Fred Turner stated that the CEC plans to issue an incomplete draft report on September 12. He noted that the report contains no recommendations concerning

vulnerability, although it has several recommendations pertaining to better understanding of hazards. Mr. Turner said the CEC has scheduled workshops on the report on September 25 and October 20, with final action expected on November 5. He added that this tight schedule may be unrealistic.

Mr. Turner recommended that the Commission appoint an ad hoc review committee of one or two commissioners to assist the staff in reviewing and formulating comments on the draft report. He said that if the CEC delays the process, there may be time for the ad hoc review committee to hold hearings and develop recommendations. He suggested appointing committee members with expertise in engineering and hazards.

Commissioner Andrew Adelman said he had experience designing power plants, and he volunteered to serve.

Commissioner John Littrell indicated he was familiar with power plants and volunteered to serve on the ad hoc review committee.

Assemblyman Blakeslee observed that the legislation provides an opportunity for comment and recommendations to the CEC that will help shape the recommendations forwarded to the NRC. He added that missing the November deadline would impede funding for the programs, increasing costs and risks.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission was appointing an ad hoc review committee to assist the staff in reviewing the draft report once it is released.

Commissioners thanked Assemblyman Blakeslee for his efforts. Assemblyman Blakeslee noted the bill highlights the Commission's important role in the state.

III. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (Out of Order)

Commissioner McGavin reported that he, Commissioner Chubb, and Commissioner Walls held a teleconference meeting to discuss individuals interested in serving as Commission officers. He said the committee nominates Commissioner Church for chair and Commissioner Cooley for vice chair.

There were no other nominations.

ACTION: Commissioner Adelman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sadre, that:

Nominations be closed and that Commissioner Church be elected chair and Commissioner Cooley be elected vice chair by unanimous acclamation.

* Motion carried, 15 – 0.

Commissioner Parker congratulated the new officers and said he enjoyed his tenure as chair.

Chairman Church thanked Commissioner Parker for his outstanding service and leadership. He expressed his appreciation to the Commission for the vote of confidence, and said he looked forward to the coming year.

Chairman Church suggested that Commissioner Parker continue chairing the rest of the meeting.

VI. NATIONAL SURVEY AND STUDY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION

Commissioner Mileti announced that the Department of Homeland Security had just completed a national survey on what makes people prepare for catastrophic disasters. He said he would be able to discuss the results in more detail at the Commission's November meeting.

Commissioner Mileti indicated that the study was very well done and involved a representative sample of people in the U.S. as a whole and in several major cities. He reported that the survey had identical findings for all groups of people studied, and the key message is that public policy and programs have the most impact on people's preparedness. Commissioner Mileti added that the report has not yet been reviewed or briefed by the Department of Homeland Security, but the results of the ground-breaking study appear to be remarkable.

VII. UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE SCENARIOS

Southern California

Commissioner Jones reported that plans for the Southern California Shake-Out event in November were progressing well, with nearly 3 million people signed up to participate. She noted that the recent Chino Hills earthquake proved to be an effective marketing tool.

Commissioner Jones said the mega-conference is receiving considerable high-level attention. She indicated that Secretary Rosario Marin and the federal Secretary of Interior will be speaking, and a number of VIP's will attend.

Northern California

Commissioner Parker advised that the Hayward Earthquake Alliance plans to mark the October 21 anniversary of 1868 earthquake with a series of special activities and events. He said there will be six simulations of ruptures on the Hayward Fault and an October 14 press conference at California State University at Hayward. He suggested inviting Secretary Marin to attend.

Commissioner Parker noted that the educational videos the Commission viewed have been duplicated and packaged for distribution in northern and southern California. Mr. McCarthy said the United States Geological Survey (USGS) purchased 500 copies of DVD's so they would be ready to distribute to schools this month, and he thanked the USGS for this generous contribution. He recommended seeking donations to print more.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

X. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF MEETING

Ms. Cogan reminded commissioners to make hotel reservations for the November meeting in Los Angeles. She said the Commission meeting will be held during the afternoon of Friday, November 14, at the Omni Hotel, before the public rally and spectacle in downtown Los Angeles from 4 to 9 p.m.

Commissioner Jones said the normal conference registration fee will be waived for the Commission, and she encouraged commissioners to attend. She noted that a draft agenda and schedule of events is available online at iec.lacity.org, and she offered to provide commissioners with a list of speakers.

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission will be contributing up to \$5,000 as a co-sponsor.

Commissioner Adelman asked about the schedule of upcoming Commission meetings. Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission might need a teleconference meeting in December; he suggested deciding this at the November meeting. He said the Commission will meet in Sacramento on Thursday, January 8.

IX. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mileti, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

