



State Of California



ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2012

Members Participating

Michael Gardner, Chairman
Mike Dayton/Christina Curry
Peggy Hellweg
Helen Knudson
Emir Macari (arrived at 10:13 a.m.)
Kit Miyamoto
Mathew Ortiz
Mark Pazin
Timothy Strack
Chester Widom (arrived at 10:45 a.m.)

Members Absent

Jim McGowan
Kathy Smith

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Administrative Manager
David King, Legislative Director
Henry Reyes, Senior Structural Engineer
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Commission Chair Michael Gardner called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcome everyone. Administrative Manager Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2011 MINUTES

Commissioner Mike Dayton recommended clarifying the language on Page 3 pertaining to the California Integrated Seismic Network. In the first sentence of that section, he proposed inserting “a portion of the” before the word “funding.” He added that Cal EMA is still looking for other sources of funding.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Pazin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Helen Knudson, that:

The Commission approve the November 10 minutes as amended.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0 (Commissioners Emir Macari and Chester Widom absent during voting).

III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Gardner introduced newly appointed Commissioner Timothy Strack, a fire captain from Riverside, and welcomed him to the Commission. He also observed that this was the first meeting Commissioner Dayton was attending and said the Commission was pleased he was present.

Nominating Committee for Vice Chair

Chairman Gardner advised that election of a Commission vice chair would be postponed to the March meeting. He said one of the members of the Nominating Committee was unable to continue serving due to illness of a family member, so a replacement was needed. Commissioner Knudson volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee, and Chairman Gardner thanked her for her assistance.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Governor's Budget for FY 2012/2013

Executive Director Richard McCarthy reported that the Governor's recently released draft budget for 2012-13 includes funding for the Commission and proposes elimination of the June 30, 2012 sunset date for the Department of Insurance funding arrangement. In addition, Governor Brown proposes splitting the State and Consumer Services Agency into two entities, one focusing on business services and another dealing with government operations; the Commission would be part of the Business Services Agency.

Budget Update

Legislative Director David King noted that the Commission's expenditures were on track for the current fiscal year, although there was a possibility of more budget cuts over the next several months. He said the Commission already absorbed cuts of \$39,000 and \$18,000 earlier in the fiscal year.

Commissioner Macari noted that the Commission has been very successful in leveraging the research funds to produce worthwhile products that help improve seismic safety.

Annual Report on Research Program to the Attorney General

Mr. McCarthy said the annual report details how the Commission spent its research funds over the past year, and he encouraged commissioners to read the document for further information.

MOU with Department of Insurance

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Insurance and asked commissioners to review the document and submit comments and suggestions to the staff. He said the agreement calls for Commission assistance

and advice in hiring consultants, developing rate models, and other issues pertaining to earthquake insurance. He recommended that the Commission approve the MOU and authorize the staff to incorporate additional comments and finalize the agreement.

Commissioner Macari reported that he spoke recently with Insurance Commissioner David Jones, who was very impressed and supportive of the Commission's work.

ACTION: Commissioner Pazin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Macari, that:

The Commission approve the draft MOU and authorize the staff to incorporate further comments and finalize the agreement.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 (Commissioner Widom absent during voting).

Fiscal Integrity and State Managers Accountability Act

Mr. McCarthy said that as part of the Fiscal Integrity and State Managers Accountability Act, the Commission and other state agencies are required to review their finances and operations every two years and submit reports identifying what risks they face and what improvements should be made. He stated that in this year's report, he identified funding uncertainty as the Commission's biggest risk. Mr. McCarthy noted that the report had already been reviewed by the Agency and forwarded to the Department of Finance.

Web Page Update for 2011

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to compilation of Web page statistics for 2011. He pointed out that the Commission's Website had 3.4 million hits, with activity peaking in March after the Japanese earthquake and tsunamis. He said the most frequently downloaded document was the "Homeowners Guide to Earthquake Safety," and the most requested part of the Website was the tsunami page.

Commissioner Miyamoto observed that the Commission's Website is one of its most important public communication tools.

V. POST-EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami RECOVERY EFFORTS IN JAPAN

Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, reported on Japan's post-disaster recovery efforts over the 10 months since the earthquake and tsunamis that devastated northern Japan. He began by thanking the Commission and the State of California for the assistance they provided.

Mr. Inomata displayed slides showing the areas affected by the earthquake, tsunamis, and nuclear power plant accident. He said there were over 25,000 casualties, including over 15,000 people killed. There were approximately 470,000 evacuees from the area, a number that has since declined to a little over 700, although many people have moved to facilities other than their original homes. Economic damages are currently estimated at about \$212 billion.

Mr. Inomata discussed examples of seismic safety technologies Japan has implemented to help prepare for disasters. He noted that Japan has early warning systems for earthquakes and tsunamis, and information is disseminated to the public through TV, radio, and cell phone messages. He said Japan strengthened its building codes and the government provides retrofit subsidies to help building owners comply. Mr. Inomata stated that Japan's high-speed rail system proved its safety in the earthquake, with no derailments, casualties to passengers or crews, or critical damage to rail infrastructure.

Mr. Inomata described the current status of reconstruction and recovery efforts. He showed a graph depicting the operational status of major highways, high-speed rail, ports, and electrical utilities. He noted that certain areas near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are still closed to the public, and he talked about the events leading to the explosion and radiation discharge. Mr. Inomata reported that the plant was successfully shut down on December 16. Radiation levels remain high in the immediately affected area, but radiation levels in Tokyo are equivalent to those in the U.S. and France.

Mr. Inomata said Japan's economy relies on exporting goods and tourism, and restoring those sectors to healthy levels will be challenging. He noted that rebuilding industrial supply chains and related infrastructure have impaired Japan's goals for renewable energy and conservation, and public attitudes toward nuclear power have shifted significantly since the accident last March.

Mr. Inomata indicated that municipalities will spearhead the reconstruction efforts, supported by central government. He said Japan has created a system of special zones to attract new investments with tax breaks and other incentives. He noted that approximately \$238 billion will be spent over the next five years, and a new reconstruction agency will start work in February to coordinate rebuilding efforts.

Mr. Inomata concluded his presentation by thanking the U.S. government and the State of California for providing rescue assistance and support.

Commissioner Miyamoto observed that California can learn many valuable lessons from Japan's experience. He noted that decentralization is the key to a speedy recovery. He said each city has the ability to activate local contractors to ensure efficient deployment of resources.

Commissioner Macari thanked Mr. Inomata for his presentation. He expressed interest in learning more about what the Japanese government plans for power generation. Chairman Gardner commented that the shift in public opinion about nuclear energy is a significant change.

Commissioner Miyamoto observed that estimations of economic losses would be difficult because it was hard to predict the impact of the disaster on the demand for Japanese manufactured products. Mr. Tomotaka Kuwahara, Consul for Economic Affairs, acknowledged that Japan's economic growth has been impacted by the disaster, but reconstruction efforts will create new demand to offset some of the losses.

Mr. Hiroshi Haruki, President, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, and President, Fujitsu Management Services of America, Inc., discussed Fujitsu's recovery actions after the disaster. He displayed a map showing the locations of Fujitsu's manufacturing plants in relationship to the affected area. He reported that all plants were fully operational by April 20, 2011.

Mr. Haruki remarked that employees responded to the disaster with major panic and chaos because they trusted the company's safety confirmation system. Although the earthquake and tsunamis causes a loss of infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, and interrupted regional power supplies, Fujitsu's offices and plants engaged in independent activities to recover and reconstruct as quickly as possible. Mr. Haruki said Fujitsu first confirmed the safety of its employees and facilities, dispatched emergency supplies from other areas to the affected area, provided temporary housing for displaced employees and their families, and offered medical and mental health assistance. He noted that Fujitsu contributed approximately \$2.5 million to support recovery effects, supplied flashlights and batteries, provided free Internet access to refugees, and established a cloud computing system to gather and store data and assist response organizations in deploying resources and personnel to the areas where they were needed.

Mr. Haruki stated that Fujitsu's existing business continuity plan was an important factor in its disaster response activities. In accordance with that plan, PC product lines were successfully shifted to other plants within 10 days of the event. In addition, over 40 mock disaster drills were conducted from 2008 to 2010, so employees were well prepared.

Mr. Haruki said Fujitsu remains committed to helping its customers restore operations that were disrupted by the disaster, taking responsibility for reconstructing infrastructure and rebuilding communities, coping with power supply restrictions imposed by the government, and pursuing future information technology innovations. He noted that Fujitsu's slogan is "Everybody bonded," and the company will continue to take an active role in recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Commissioner Macari noted that hospitals are critical facilities after disasters. He said the California Legislature authorized development of three mobile hospitals that can be transported to any area of the state to provide medical care where needed.

Commissioner Knudson expressed concern about refugees still living in shelters because they were rendered homeless by the disaster, and she asked what kinds of shelters and support systems were available in Japan. Mr. Inomata said most displaced people were evacuated to schools and other temporary housing facilities. He estimated that about 500 people were still living in shelters, and about 200,000 were living in temporary houses.

Mr. Hiroshi Tomita, Second Vice President, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, and President, Konica Minolta Laboratory USA, observed that many companies in Japan provided housing for their employees. Commissioner Miyamoto remarked that company-provided housing is rare in the U.S.

Mr. Tomita gave a presentation about Konica's corporate response to the disaster. He said the company's foremost concern was the safety of its employees, and then the status of its production plants and sales offices, as well as impacts on corporate performance. He noted that like Fujitsu, Konica has a safety confirmation system and an active employee training and disaster preparedness program. He stated that all employees receive a comprehensive disaster preparedness manual, so they know what to do and how to respond in emergencies. Mr. Tomita indicated that Konica also participated in relief efforts and donated funds to help affected areas.

Commissioner Miyamoto thanked the guest speakers for their presentations. He said he was very impressed by Japan's response to the disaster, and he emphasized that individuals must prepare to be self-sufficient. He noted that companies can help employees by providing supplies and information. He asked if major companies shared data with local government and promulgated best practices for small businesses. Mr. Tomita stated that most of Konica's programs can be applied to small companies too. He noted that companies can share some information with governments, but personal information about employees must be kept private.

Commissioner Mark Pazin remarked that corporate data could be very helpful for first responders, because they have concerns about their own families as well as members of the public. He expressed interest in having a presentation at a future meeting about response and recovery issues pertaining to law enforcement.

Chairman Gardner pointed out that Japanese companies tend value their employees differently than companies in the U.S.

Chairman Gardner thanked all the presenters for their information.

Chairman Gardner suggested taking the report on the PBS "Totally Unprepared" campaign before discussing the annual report.

VII. REPORT ON TOTALLY UNPREPARED CAMPAIGN (Out of Order)

Mr. Shabbir Safdar, Project Lead, "TotallyUnprepared.com," gave an update on the Public Broadcasting Stations' "Totally Unprepared" public awareness campaign jointly funded by the Commission, the California Earthquake Authority, and the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). He explained that this project incorporates findings of social science research done by former Commissioner Dennis Mileti and Dr. Linda Bourque of UCLA and uses a multi-channel approach to promote awareness of earthquake risks and steps people can take to mitigate damage.

Mr. Safdar said the "Totally Unprepared" campaign uses a series of Web-based videos covering all aspects of planning and mitigation activities so people can watch others demonstrating proper preparedness techniques. Viewers can use the "Will It Shake?" feature on the Website to see exactly what happens when various items of personal property undergo strong shaking. In addition, the campaign provides a simple, one-page earthquake safety checklist; focused information and supporting materials on a wide range of topics; and a mobile application that

calculates the value of personal property items. Mr. Safdar noted that information is further disseminated through online outposts, social media, video contests, and public media coverage.

Mr. Safdar advised that PBS has produced a 20-minute program on preparedness that can be broadcast on local PBS affiliates throughout California. He stated that the earthquake safety checklist has been translated into Spanish and Chinese, and PBS has formed partnerships with groups representing Latino and Asian communities. He said the campaign is still a work in progress, with plans for more Web applications, videos, contests, and foreign language translations. Mr. Safdar noted that funding for the campaign runs out in March of 2012, and PBS has been contemplating additional outreach in the future.

Commissioner Knudson thanked Mr. Safdar and said she enjoyed working on this worthwhile project. Commissioner Macari concurred and commended Mr. Safdar and PBS for their efforts.

Mr. Safdar showed a short video comparing the effects of strong shaking on an anchored and an unanchored fish tank.

VI. ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Cogan drew attention to the draft annual report in the meeting packet and asks for Commission approval. She said she incorporated comments from commissioners and noted that the chart on Pages 14 to 16 was updated to reflect the current status of the initiatives in the state's five-year loss reduction plan.

ACTION: Commissioner Pazin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Macari, that:

The Commission approve the annual report as presented.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 - 1 (Commissioner Widom abstaining).

At 11:48, the Commission recessed for lunch. Chairman Gardner reconvened the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

VIII. REPORT ON SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FROM Cal EMA

Mr. Jim Barnes, Safety Assessment Program Coordinator, Cal EMA, provided a briefing on Cal EMA's Safety Assessment Program (SAP) coordinator enhancements. He explained that the SAP is based on ATC-20, a standard enacted in 1971 to assess post-earthquake safety of buildings. The SAP provides assistance to local governments to help identify useable buildings and those that are too dangerous to occupy. Mr. Barnes indicated that the SAP currently has about 7,000 trained field evaluators and about 600 coordinators to oversee their work. He noted that because of lessons learned in the recent New Zealand earthquakes and the disaster in Japan, Cal EMA entered into a contract with the Seismic Safety Commission to incorporate best practices and enhancements in California's SAP.

Mr. Barnes described Japan's three-step safety assessment program, beginning with an initial quick inspection, followed by a damage classification survey, and then development of restoration or demolition plans based on cost and feasibility. Mr. Barnes observed that Japan's methods would be too time-consuming to adopt in California and would require almost exclusive use of structural and civil engineers to accomplish. He pointed out that safety assessments in California do not lead directly to restoration or demolition decisions; instead, those decisions are made by building owners in consultation with architects and engineers.

On the other hand, Mr. Barnes noted, some of the coordination methods used in New Zealand might be useful to California. In particular, he suggested that California consider forming strike teams to assess specific building sectors such as essential services facilities, high-risk buildings, low-rise apartments and office buildings, and single-family dwellings and duplexes; broadening the definition of "essential facilities" to include facilities for police, fire, emergency operations centers, and key government buildings, as well as shelters, water and waste treatment plants, pharmacies, grocery stores, and hardware stores; using "monitor buildings" to observe damage to certain types of buildings; and clarifying that green "inspected" tags only mean that buildings are usable as of that date and do not imply safety. Mr. Barnes recommended further discussion of conditions that warrant cordoning off blocks or sections of a city. He pointed out that New Zealand used shipping containers in innovative ways for barricading and shoring unsafe areas. He advocated greater consideration of shelter-in-place options for temporary housing of affected populations.

Mr. Barnes reviewed proposed improvements to the SAP coordinator system, including pre-disaster adoption of placards, encouraging local building officials to serve as SAP coordinators; using smart phone applications to update information in the field; using permanent ink markers on placards, and disseminating informational flyers to people in affected areas. He noted that local jurisdictions should know the locations of their most vulnerable structures. He observed that field equipment can be broken down into portable packs for ready field use. He recommended that SAP teams check in frequently with their coordinators, dissemination of press releases explaining the meaning of placards and the use of ID badges, and providing basic guidance on shoring and barricading techniques.

Mr. Barnes advised that the draft SAP coordinator manual was circulated for comments on January 9 and would be finalized on January 13. He said Cal EMA will begin training coordinators with the updated manual from mid-January until the end of March.

Commissioner Miyamoto observed that recovery activities sometimes disrupt reconstruction efforts after a disaster. He encouraged Cal EMA to look beyond ATC-20 and find ways to disseminate important information like damage estimates to aid reconstruction.

Chairman Gardner thanked Mr. Barnes for his presentation.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Continued)

Annual Report Reduction

Mr. McCarthy reported that as part of the movement to streamline state government and eliminate waste, the Commission will no longer be required to submit annual reports on the status of initiatives in the five-year loss reduction plan or the status of unreinforced masonry buildings.

Mr. McCarthy also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Cogan for her work on the annual report and to Mr. Fred Turner for his assistance with Commission-sponsored research projects.

IX. HOSPITAL VULNERABILITY TO EARTHQUAKES VIDEO

Mr. McCarthy noted that the San Diego shake table testing of a five-story building has been attracting considerable interest, and he invited Professor Tara Hutchinson, University of California, San Diego, to provide an update on this project.

Professor Hutchinson said this is a \$5 million, three-year project with many different sponsors. She noted that the Commission originally contributed \$300,000 to help pay for the design and construction of a simulated intensive care unit, a base isolation system, and an educational video; subsequently the Commission approved another \$50,000 to study the effects of fire on the structure after shake tests have been completed.

Professor Hutchinson described the scope and intent of the educational video funded by the Commission. She reviewed an outline of its contents and said the video covers the construction of the structure, preparations for testing, and a commentary explaining the benefits and value of the testing in assessing the performance of nonstructural elements in a hospital setting. She requested that the Commission approve an additional \$10,000 to expand the video to include a summary of the test results. Professor Hutchinson advised that the draft of the video would be completed by mid-February, and the final product will be ready to distribute to the public in early March. She played a 19-minute segment of the draft video.

Commissioner Miyamoto asked about the purpose and audience for the educational video. Professor Hutchinson responded that the material is being prepared for hospital employees, policy makers, and members of the general public. Mr. McCarthy observed that obtaining the endorsement of the California Hospital Association was an important step forward. He added that the video itself can be broken into smaller pieces and incorporated in the PBS public outreach project discussed earlier.

Commissioner Strack noted that the video also presents an educational opportunity for fire service personnel. He said front-line responders would benefit from information on how fire spreads in a damaged building. He expressed strong support for the fire following earthquakes component of this research project.

Commissioner Knudson commented that most of Alameda County's hospitals are located within a mile of a major earthquake fault, so understanding nonstructural performance issues is important for hospital employees. She emphasized that people need to learn these lessons before the next big earthquake. She remarked that the video can have many spin-off uses, including incorporation in the PBS public education campaign.

Professor Hutchinson stated that seismic testing of the structure will take place in mark, and fire tests are scheduled before the end of April.

Commissioner Dayton offered the assistance of Cal EMA's videographer as well. He agreed with fellow commissioners that this project offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about hospital performance and to educate the public.

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission approve \$10,000 for expansion of the video as proposed.

ACTION: Commissioner Strack made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Knudson, that:

The Commission authorize expenditure of \$10,000 in research funds as requested.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 (Commissioner Mathew Ortiz absent during voting).

Professor Hutchinson thanked the Commission for its support. She indicated she would leave extra copies of the video with the staff.

X. REPORT ON SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (SFPUC) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FIELD TRIP

Commissioner Macari reported that he and Mr. Turner conducted a site visit of several SFPUC water distribution facilities to assess progress firsthand and analyze the impact of proposed delays. He displayed a map of the system and presented slides showing some of the key improvements.

Commissioner Macari stated that the Commission is required to review changes in the original schedule and plans, and noted that extending the completion time for various elements of the system results in a higher risk of earthquake damage. He advised that about 33 percent of the work was completed by mid-2011, although the original statutory deadlines called for 50 percent completion by 2010 and 100 percent completion by 2015. He referred to the written comments submitted by the Commission on December 20 for more details.

Chairman Gardner thanked Commissioner Macari and Mr. Turner for their work on this project.

XI. CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR’S REPORT ON THE DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT (DSA)

Commissioner Chester Widom, newly appointed State Architect, introduced himself and gave a brief summary of his professional background and experience. He drew attention to the written audit report in the meeting packet and said DSA is working hard to improve its operations and change perceptions about its effectiveness.

Chairman Gardner thanked Commissioner Widom for the report and welcomed him to the Commission.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XIII. GOOD OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Macari asked about the location of the next meeting. Mr. McCarthy responded that because of ongoing travel restrictions, the March meeting would be held in Sacramento.

Commissioner Pazin suggested that the Commission consider holding a future meeting in Santa Nella to hear presentations about the safety of the nearby San Luis Reservoir and dam.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gardner adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director