



State Of California

# ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



*Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.*

Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission  
State Capitol, Room 4202  
Sacramento, California  
Minutes of Meeting  
May 8, 2014

## **Members Present**

Michael Gardner, Chairman  
Salud Carbajal  
Elizabeth Hess  
Mark Ghilarducci/Mark Johnson  
Randall Goodwin  
Peggy Hellweg  
Elizabeth Hess  
Tracy Johnson  
Helen Knudson  
Emir Macari  
Jim McGowan  
Kit Miyamoto (arrived at 10:07 a.m.)  
David Rabbit (arrived at 10:12 a.m.)  
Timothy Strack  
Fuad Sweiss  
Daniel Torrez

## **Commissioners Absent**

Greg Beroza  
Chester Widom

## **Staff Present**

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director  
Karen Cogan, Administrative Officer  
Robert Anderson, Senior Engineering Geologist  
David King, Legislative & Special Projects Mgr  
Henry Reyes, Special Projects Manager  
Fred Turner, Structural Engineer

## **I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chairman Michael Gardner called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all participants. Administrative Officer Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2014 MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Randall Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Timothy Strack, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the March 13 meeting as presented.*

\* Motion carried, 13 – 0 (Commissioners Kit Miyamoto and David Rabbit absent during voting).

### **III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

#### **Report on Meeting with Jet Propulsion Lab**

Chairman Gardner reported that he and several others had attended a meeting at the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) and had an interesting tour of that facility. He noted that JPL's advanced imaging capabilities can be applied to mapping faults and estimating post-earthquake impacts, so JPL has much to offer as a potential partner for the Commission. Chairman Gardner said another tour will be held on June 4, and the Commission will have a better idea of possible collaborative efforts at that time.

Executive Director Richard McCarthy added that he briefed that Agency secretary and under-secretary on the tour and discussed potential projects with them.

#### **Committee Appointments**

Chairman Gardner suggested that the Commission discuss committee assignments after electing a new chairman and vice chairman later in the meeting.

Ms. Cogan distributed a list of the Commission's current committee assignments.

### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Budget**

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission's budget is in good shape as the end of the fiscal year approaches, and he referred to the staff's budget projections.

Legislative and Special Projects Manager Dave King reported that the staff is working the Contracted Fiscal Services to allocate funds for Web development and other expenditures.

Mr. McCarthy recommended allocating about \$15,000 for Website management and enhancements. He noted that this will leave the Commission with a small cushion for end-of-year expenses. Mr. McCarthy stated that the staff will make a presentation at the August meeting about the 2014-15 budget.

#### **Senate Confirmations**

Mr. McCarthy reported that the State Senate confirmed reappointment for all members of the Commission whose terms were expiring, and he congratulated those commissioners on their reappointments.

## **Senate Insurance Committee Presentation**

Mr. McCarthy informed the Commission that he recently made a presentation to the Senate Insurance Committee and participated in a panel discussion with the California Earthquake Authority and a structural engineer from San Francisco. He said he described the Commission's research on fire following earthquakes and other risk mitigation projects.

## **Review of Agenda Items**

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission address Items VI and VII together.

Mr. McCarthy noted that Dr. Graham Kent would be talking about plans for the August joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council.

Mr. McCarthy reminded commissioners that the October meeting would be held in San Francisco and hosted by Commissioner Fuad Sweiss.

## **V. SENATE BILL 1345: SEVEN-YEAR EXTENSION OF SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION REVIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM RETROFIT PROJECT**

Mr. King advised that SB 1345 (Hill/Corbett), a bill introduced by the Senate Resources and Water Committee, would extend the reporting deadline from 90 days to 120 days to allow the Commission more time to respond to proposed changes and deletions in the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Water System Improvement Project. He said the staff will continue to work with Senators Hill and Corbett as the bill advances through the Legislature.

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission support SB 1345. He invited Mr. Art Jensen, former chief executive officer of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to address the Commission.

Mr. Jensen expressed support for SB 1345 with its latest amendments and pointed out that the Water System Improvement Project is vitally important for public health and safety and for the state and regional economy. He said BAWSCA represents customer who buy two thirds of their water from SFPUC.

Mr. Jensen commented that the Seismic Safety Commission plays an important role in monitoring progress and delays in the Water System Improvement Project. He noted that in 2006, the Commission questioned the seismic criteria and performance goals, resulting in refinements that provide additional protection for the public; in 2008, the Commission raised additional issues and recommended that the SFPUC establish an independent task force to oversee the project; and in 2013, the Commission requested additional information about the Peninsula pipeline project. Mr. Jensen said the SFPUC knows the Commission and others are reviewing their work, and the program is running smoothly as a result. He recommended that the Commission support SB 1345.

Chairman Gardner expressed his opinion that the Commission should continue its role in monitoring the project and commenting on the impacts of changes and delays in the schedule. He observed that SB 1345 appears to have broad support and is likely to pass. He recommended that the Commission work through the administration rather than taking a formal position on the bill, and he proposed that the Commission authorize the chairman and executive officer to testify before legislative committees later this summer if necessary.

Commissioner Emir Macari indicated that he was a member of the Commission's task force reviewing this project. He attested to the importance of the seismic safety component of the improvements and noted that the Commission's continued involvement is essential.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Macari made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Peggy Hellweg, that:

*The Commission support SB 1345 as proposed and authorize the executive director and chairman to testify if requested.*

\* Motion carried, 15 – 0.

Mr. McCarthy said he would apprise the Agency of the Commission's recommendation.

**VI. FINAL APPROVAL OF REPORT ON EARTHQUAKES AND CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE: IDENTIFYING AND MEASURING VULNERABILITIES AND POTENTIAL MITIGATION OF LOSSES**

**VII. FINAL APPROVAL OF REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC SURVEY STUDY**

Mr. McCarthy noted that the Commission previously reviewed the draft reports for the Phase I research projects on California agriculture and small business and established review committees to work with the staff and contractors. He noted that Commissioners Christina Curry and Macari are serving as the review committee for the agriculture report, and Commissioners Salud Carbajal and Sweiss are on the small business review committee. He reported that both reports have been forwarded to Agency for review and comments. He recommended having the review committees work with the contractors to finalize the reports, and the delegating authority to the chairman and vice chairman to approve the final versions.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Governor Brown will be going to Mexico on a trade mission at the end of July and would like to share the agriculture and the Small Business Disaster Preparedness Resource Guide reports with Mexican officials. He said the draft report has already been forwarded to the Mexican consulate. Mr. McCarthy advised that Agency representatives found the report a bit too technical, so it may need to be revised for broader audiences. Commissioner Macari recommended keeping the technical version and developing a non-technical version as well.

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

*The Commission authorize the review committees to finalize the reports and forward them to the chairman and vice chairman for final approval as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 15 – 0.

Mr. McCarthy proposed sending both reports to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council before the joint meeting in August. Commissioner Hellweg said she met recently with representatives from Alaska’s Seismic Safety Commission, and she recommended sharing the reports with the Western States Seismic Policy Council and the Commission’s counterparts in other states.

Mr. McCarthy indicated that he plans to send out the report to various entities that may be interested in partnering with the Commission on Phase II of these efforts. He noted the Commission is always looking for ways to leverage its investments and tap other funding sources to support research projects.

### **VIII. PROPOSED JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION AND NEVADA EARTHQUAKE SAFETY COUNCIL**

Mr. McCarthy introduced Dr. Graham Kent, Board Committee Member, Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, and thanked him for inviting the Commission to hold a joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council. He asked Dr. Kent to provide some background about the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council and issues of mutual concern for California and Nevada.

Dr. Kent thanked the Commission for inviting him to make a presentation at this meeting. He explained that the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council is a 20-member group under the auspices of Nevada’s Division of Emergency Management. He said the Council meets four times a year, but the Council has never met with California’s Seismic Safety Commission.

Dr. Kent noted that California and Nevada share both a common border and common problems pertaining to earthquake risks and seismic safety. He stated that Nevada has had some strong earthquakes, but there have been few large earthquakes in recent years, so many people have never experienced an earthquake disaster and are not well prepared. He added that 556,000 people in Nevada participated in the great ShakeOut event last year, and the state is working to increase awareness and improve seismic safety.

Dr. Kent explained that the Sierra Nevada boundary region has the highest seismicity in the state, although there have been strong earthquakes near both Reno and Las Vegas in the past. He displayed a map showing the locations of past earthquakes and pointed out a number of earthquake sites along the California-Nevada border.

Dr. Kent stated that Nevada has been working with scientists at UC Berkeley, Cal Tech, and USGS to develop an earthquake early warning system, and he commended California for its recent passage of historic legislation to utilize existing seismic networks to build an early

warning system for the state. He said Nevada also has a seismic network, and more monitoring stations are being installed. He showed a map of Nevada's current seismic network and a map of earthquakes located by the seismic network in 2013.

Dr. Kent noted that Nevada has used the recent LiDAR survey of the Lake Tahoe basin to identify faults and study the bathymetry of Lake Tahoe. He said turbidites near Donner Lake have revealed evidence of strong shaking and landslides in that area in the past. He reported that scientists have learned that earthquake ruptures in one spot tend to trigger seismic events in other areas. He showed slides illustrating how a rupture near Crater Lake produced shaking near Lake Tahoe that resulted in ruptures in the Donner Lake area. He noted that California has similar areas where an event in one location can trigger earthquakes at another place, and he cited the Salton Sea and the lower segment of the San Andreas Fault as an example.

Dr. Kent said the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council looks forward to the August joint meeting as a starting point for discussing greater cooperation with California along its shared border, partnership opportunities, and assistance with mitigation efforts. He observed that California earthquakes can affect Nevada's economy and vice versa, so it is important for these neighboring states to join forces and work together. He noted that the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council is open to ideas for joint projects.

Mr. McCarthy asked about the seismic risk in the Las Vegas area. Dr. Kent responded that Las Vegas is a major concern because it tends to be the economic driver for the entire state, the population has grown considerably over the past decade, there are many unreinforced masonry buildings in Las Vegas, and the area is poorly monitored. He said about two million people live in Las Vegas, and weekends often bring 400,000 more visitors. He stated that the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council is working with USGS to fund monitoring equipment for the Las Vegas area.

Mr. McCarthy asked if the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council had met with its counterparts in Utah and Idaho. Dr. Kent said some discussions had been held with people from Utah, Colorado, and Idaho, but joint economic effects and impacts had not yet been fully addressed. He added that Utah has 180,000 unreinforced masonry buildings in four counties, so there are many issues of common concern.

Mr. McCarthy noted that part of the Commission-sponsored project with the Small Business Development Centers involved development of a brochure for small businesses, and he offered to provide a draft copy to the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council.

Mr. McCarthy proposed that the Commission hold a regular business meeting the afternoon of August 12, followed by a joint meeting with the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council for a few hours on August 13. He said Ms. Cogan was working to find a meeting location and hotel accommodations for the Commission. Mr. McCarthy added that he would work with Dr. Kent to develop an agenda for the joint meeting.

Chairman Gardner thanked Dr. Kent for his presentation and said the Commission looks forward to the joint meeting.

## **IX. UPDATE ON JOINT PROJECT WITH MEXICO AND SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

Commissioner Emir Macari reported that the Commission has been working with officials at the Mexican consulate to prepare for the governor's trade mission to Mexico at the end of July. He noted that topics for potential partnership projects include the earthquake early warning system, agricultural impacts, and economic recovery. He said Commissioner Mark Ghilarducci will be accompanying the governor on the trip.

Mr. McCarthy suggested taking a short break pending the arrival of the next guest speaker.

At 11:07 a.m., the Commission took a brief recess. Chairman Gardner reconvened the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Continued)**

### **Introduction: June Vargas, Information Officer, Office of Publications, Design, and Editing, Department of Consumer Affairs**

Mr. McCarthy introduced Ms. June Vargas, Information Officer, Office of Publications, Design, and Editing, Department of Consumer Affairs, editor of the Commission's updated retrofit guidelines manual. He said Ms. Vargas will provide some examples of her work for commissioners to review at the next meeting. Ms. Vargas stated that she was looking forward to working with the Commission and the staff.

Staff Structural Engineer Fred Turner added the Department of Consumer Affairs had offered to provide Ms. Vargas' editing services pro bono. Chairman Gardner expressed the Commission's appreciation to the Department of Consumer Affairs and Ms. Vargas for their generosity.

## **X. APPROVAL OF HOSPITAL BUILDING SAFETY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Chris Tokas, Structural Engineer, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP), provided an overview of the Hospital Building Safety Board's activities in 2013. He reviewed the Hospital Building Safety Board's history, composition, and areas of responsibility, and he discussed the activities of the Board's Instrumentation, Structural and Nonstructural Regulations, and Education and Outreach Committees in more detail.

Mr. Tokas displayed charts depicting the status of California hospitals' compliance with SB 1953, a bill that established categories to rank the seismic hazards of each building and mandated retrofit or demolition work to correct problems. He invited commissioners to attend the upcoming compliance workshop session in Sacramento.

Commissioner Hellweg asked if data from the strong motion instruments in hospitals is shared with the state's Strong Motion Instrumentation Advisory Committee, and Mr. Tokas responded that the data is shared and posted almost immediately. Commissioner Hellweg asked if the

Board's Advanced Technology Committee planned to become involved with California's earthquake early warning system. Mr. Tokas said this topic is on the committee's agenda. He reported that OSHPD is developing its own methodologies using shake maps and Google Earth for rapid dissemination of earthquake alerts. Commissioner Hellweg remarked that even a brief advance warning would give hospitals time to turn on generators to keep their basic functions and information technology systems operating. Mr. Tokas noted that particular staff people have been assigned to correlate the data gathered from strong motion instruments.

Chairman Gardner thanked Mr. Tokas for his thorough report.

## **XI. TOTALLY UNPREPARED NATIVE AMERICAN PILOT PROJECT**

Mr. McCarthy noted that Mr. Michael Kleeman, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, UC San Diego, gave a presentation at the January meeting about plans for the next phase of the Totally Unprepared campaign. He said the contractor is developing an outreach template that will first be implemented with some of the tribal groups in Southern California and then expanded to the rest of the state. He added that this joint effort with Cal OES has been a very successful partnership, and he invited Mr. Kleeman to discuss the Native American pilot project in more detail.

Mr. Kleeman explained that the Totally Unprepared campaign began with funding from the Commission, Cal OES, and the California Earthquake Authority, and the first phase involved a series of public service announcements and short preparedness videos that were disseminated through broadcast media, publications, and social media. He said the next phase will continue the Website outreach and add a concentrated community-based and in-person approach.

Mr. Kleeman stated that the pilot project entails working closely with schools, churches, and other community organizations to raise preparedness awareness over time. He said Totally Prepared has already developed age-appropriate materials for use in schools, and he gave some examples. He proposed focusing on Native American tribal communities and engaging in in-person meetings with tribal officials and community groups. He explained that Totally Prepared plans a "carpet-bombing" approach that will blanket the targeted communities with television, radio, and printed messages as well as concerted outreach to individuals and organizations. Mr. Kleeman added that the pilot program will then be expanded to other communities statewide.

Commissioner Knudson commented that this kind of outreach would be welcome in the Bay Area as well. Chairman Gardner agreed, and expressed his hope that a statewide rollout would happen soon. He said it makes sense to begin with tribal groups in Southern California, noting that many Native American communities are located in close proximity to earthquake faults in that region. He offered to provide names of contact people for various tribal groups in his area. Mr. Kleeman thanked Chairman Gardner for his offer. He said Totally Prepared will work in consultation with the Commission to identify the communities to be targeted first.



## **XII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Jim McGowan noted that at the March meeting, the Commission agreed to postpone election of a new vice chairman and take nominations for both chairman and vice chairman at the same time. He said the Nominating Committee, consisting of Commissioner Helen Knudson and himself, asked interested candidates to submit a letter of intent and a statement of qualifications by April 1. He reported that four commissioners expressed interest in serving as officers, and the Nominating Committee created and delivered a statement of qualifications to each of those candidates.

Commissioner McGowan said that after reviewing the qualifications of the four candidates, the Nominating Committee unanimously agreed to nominate Commissioner Timothy Strack as chairman and Commissioner Tracy Johnson as vice chairman.

Commissioner Knudson commented that all four candidates were well qualified, but the committee worked through the process and arrived at a unanimous decision.

Chairman Gardner thanked the members of the Nominating Committee and the candidates who expressed interest in serving as Commission officers. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor; no additional names were proposed.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Randall Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sweiss, that:

*The Commission elect Commissioner Strack as chairman and Commissioner Johnson as vice chairman as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 14 – 0 – 1 (Commissioners, Knudson and McGowan abstaining).

Chairman Gardner congratulated Commissioners Strack and Johnson. He said he enjoyed serving as Commission chairman for the past two years and thanked the Commission for its support.

Mr. McCarthy expressed his appreciation to Chairman Gardner for his service, noting that Chairman Gardner helped guide the Commission through several critical issues and made himself available to communicate with staff and fellow commissioners at all times. He said Chairman Gardner did an excellent job representing the Commission in television and media interviews, and he also played an important role in the deliberations pertaining to the San Onofre nuclear power plant.

## **XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **XIV. GOOD OF THE MEETING**

##### **Committee Assignments**

Commissioner Strack thanked his fellow commissioners for electing him as the Commission's new chair. He said he was humbled by the honor and looked forward to working closely with Mr. McCarthy and the staff. He added that he would do his best to fill the big shoes left by Chairman Gardner.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that commissioners review the committee charters and rosters and let Commissioner Strack know which committee appointments they preferred. Commissioner Strack said he would try to announce new committee appointments before the August meeting.

Commissioner Hellweg encouraged commissioners to consider volunteering to serve on the California Earthquake Early Warning Group. She said she participates on the Standards Committee and noted that the Commission provides the chair for the Stakeholder Liaison Group. She added that she would be happy to discuss these efforts with interested commissioners and welcome Commission input.

Ms. Cogan invited commissioners with questions about the time commitments entailed for various committees to contact the assigned staff people to find out more about the committees' activities and requirements.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission consider establishing a new committee to focus on outreach to seismic groups in other states.

#### **XV. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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Sue Celli  
Office Manager

Approved by:

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Richard McCarthy  
Executive Director