



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting
West Sacramento Community Center Community Room
1075 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

June 14, 2018

9:30 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order after a quorum was reached.

Roll Call:

Present:

Michael Gardner – Chair
Ken Cooley (Elizabeth representing)
Randall Goodwin
Mia Marvelli
Ian Parkinson

Cindy Silva
Timothy Strack
Fuad Sweiss
Edward Valenzuela
Ivan Wong

Absent:

Anthony Cannella
Tracy Johnson – Vice Chair
Mark S. Ghilarducci
Jorge Meneses

Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto
David Rabbitt
Andrew Tran
Chester Widom

II: Chairman's Remarks:

The minutes are unavailable for review.

III: Regional Pathways to Resilience in the Bay Area

Speakers – *Arrietta Chakos, Principal, Urban Resilience Strategies, Association of Bay Area Governments;*
Dana Brechwald, Regional Resilience Planner, Metropolitan Transportation Commission,
Association of Bay Area Governments

Discussion:

Dana Brechwald, Resilience Planner at Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and Arrietta Chakos from Urban Resilience Strategies, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), present a briefing on joint activity between ABAG and MTC in an effort to increase resilience to potential events in the Bay Area. The four major areas where they are directing this focus are wildfires, earthquakes, climate change, and uncertain energy future. Using the partnership of MTC-ABAG as a regional platform, they are also working with federal and state agencies like FEMA, U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Planning and Research, Environmental Protection Agency, California Earthquake Authority, and further extending their efforts through partnerships with Southern California Council of Government (SCAG) to incorporate the entire state.

IV: Seismic Design Challenges for California High Speed Rail Authority

Speaker – *John Popoff, Deputy Program Director, California High Speed Rail Authority*

Discussion:

California High Speed Rail Authority is implementing a system that will operate trains up to 220 miles per hour on viaducts, through tunnels, on structures, in very heavy earthquake-sensitive areas. Actions taken in Japan and Taiwan are being studied to see how these areas operate high-speed rails, considering their seismic activity, and have managed to prevent serious accidents during earthquakes. The system being designed will detect earthquake activity quickly and take immediate action without operator intervention. The key is immediate action, autonomous reaction, and minimizing the damage. The system will be self-contained and self-protected with seismic detectors every five miles along the railroad, providing complete mapping. The fail-safe system responds by stopping a train travelling at 220 miles per hour in 80 seconds.

V: Update on Earthquake and Classroom Curriculum

Speaker – *Robert Anderson, Senior Engineering Geologist, Seismic Safety Commission*

Discussion:

Mr. Anderson gave an update on Dr. Lori Dengler's project on seismic tsunami education and outreach, currently ongoing. The project began with a book covering the 2013 arrival of a fishing boat from Japan, following their March 11th earthquake and tsunami. The boat was discovered by children and adults in Northern California and documents its trek across the ocean and the events and actions taken, including its final return to Japan. The book has been translated from Japanese into other languages and has received donations of \$49,000 to cover costs for graphic design support for the translated versions.

VI: Post Business Earthquake Recovery: Learning from Japan's Experiences

Speaker – *Professor Guna Selvadury, San Jose State University*

Discussion:

Professor Selvadury provides an update on the Post Earthquake Business Recovery project. After studying the post-earthquake economic recovery measures by the Japanese government, Professor Selvadury is looking to develop a broader strategy to be applied to post-disaster economic recovery, rather than just post-earthquake recovery. Detailed survey has been developed using the CSSC California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan as a basis for development of the survey questions. James Lee is a sociologist with experience writing survey questions that eliminate bias as much as possible. The survey is very detailed, containing more than 100 questions, and is being translated into Japanese.

VII: Seismic Safety Commission Outreach Program

Speaker – *Michael Kleeman, Project Director, University of California, San Diego*

Discussion:

Mr. Kleeman reported on the Communications Outreach Report, with its objective to raise visibility of the commission and amplify the impact of the activities conducted and projects funded. They contacted media to find what things they looked for in terms of information that would drive stories. Also worked with staff to enhance contact lists so press releases and other such items could be received by media. We also worked extensively on social media and creating a resource database to be used as a valuable attractor to press and others in terms of offering information. Not surprisingly, although the public is aware of the work done by the Commission, the Commission itself does not have a high visibility to media and people seeking information. In looking through resources available, there is a very rich set of seismic information resources posted by government agencies and academic institutions, but there was no single resource compendium. The outreach program now has compiled many resource sites and links combined to be made available from one basic page, a one-stop for general information.

VIII: Update: Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety

Speakers – *Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer, Seismic Safety Commission;*
Cindy Silva, Commissioner, Seismic Safety Commission

Discussion:

Commissioner Cindy Silva presented an update on the Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety, in draft form for approval of content and format by the Commission prior to incurring the expense of graphic designer necessary to finalize the guide. The ShakeMaps included in the guide are of four significant earthquakes in California to convey to homeowners that much of California is subject to damage. Executive Director Richard McCarthy requested that the Commissioners authorize him to spend up to \$10,000 for the graphic artist, to be paid from the Research Fund. It was noted that as the Executive Director of the Commission, he is authorized to make this purchase.

IX: Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development: Annual Report

Speaker – *Chris Tokas, Division Chief, Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development*

Discussion:

Mr. Tokas reported on the Seismic Compliance Program, part of the Office of Statewide Hospital Planning and Development Annual Report. History provided on the Hospital Seismic Safety Act and its effectiveness following the Northridge earthquake, citing only pre-Act buildings suffered major damage. Amendment to the Act created categories of hospitals and classified based on their seismic performance category. In 2001, 40% of the 2,600 surveyed hospital buildings were of category SPC-1. Today, through utilization of various seismic compliance tools, only 6% of the 2,600 surveyed buildings remain of the SPC-1 category. Mr. Tokas reports the majority, if not all of those buildings, will be brought into compliance by January 1, 2030, the target completion deadline. Proposed regulation standards to be presented to the Building Standards Commission.

Commissioner Marvelli noted structural code advisory committee to meet August 8 and 9, 2018.

Commissioner McCarthy inquired as to the ACA impacting the schedule of the retrofits. Mr. Tokas noted SB-90 passage grants hospitals on critical access seven extra years' time.

X: California Earthquake Authority: Current Growth and Future Challenges

Speaker – *Glenn Pomeroy, Chief Executive Officer, California Earthquake Authority*

Discussion:

Mr. Pomeroy reported on the growth of insurance policies issued by the California Earthquake Authority, whose public mission is to educate, mitigate and insure. Over a period of 10 years leading up to 2016, the amount of policies grew slowly but steady to about 6,700 per year. In 2016, CEA produced a product with more flexibility, more coverage options and more value to consumers. The year ended with policies-issued growth of 52,000. In 2017, the policies issued almost doubled, growing to 90,000. The pace has continued through the first half of 2018. Still, 90% of the homes in California remain without earthquake insurance.

Slide notes potential doubling of insurance rates over the next ten years. Efforts underway to mitigate this projection. Benchmark desired to have a plan that can manage a one-in-250-year event. \$120 million spending in reinsurance markets required to achieve this goal. AB-2927 is designed to assist with this. Optional concept to have 1%-2% assessment after a large-scale event occurs to pay for statewide rebuilding costs. As the number of policyholders increases, reinsurance to cover the greater the exposure is necessary. CEA has retrofitted its 5,000th home through Earthquake Brace and Bolt program.

Question raised as to the possibility of reinitiating partnership with Oregon and Washington for a regional earthquake authority. Interest lacking on the part of Oregon and Washington, but the CEA would be interested in such a prospect.

CEA offers a wide array of deductible amount offerings -- between 5% and 25% -- providing options for insurance purchasers. The 5% option is popular among buyers. The CEA does not offer earthquake insurance policies to commercial or multi-unit (above four units) properties.

XI: Executive Director's Report

Speaker – *Richard J. McCarthy, Executive Director, Seismic Safety Commission*

Discussion:

Executive Director McCarthy speaks about the Strategic Workshop to be held in September. HayWired project causing delay of some other projects. Other project updates to occur by September Commission meeting.

Ellena Daniel explains the Commission's progress with minutes creation. Commission sent out quote for services, and after not receiving any responses on first opening, received responses upon reopening. Minutes to be distributed in a condensed format rather than verbatim transcription. Transcription and audio recordings will be available if Commissioners have more detailed questions.

Budget projection at end of fiscal year is to have \$30,000 remaining after expenditures, which will be transferred back into the main insurance fund. Budget for 2020 and 2021 projected to be negative amounts. Meeting in August with Department of Insurance and Department of Finance to discuss loan options and possible increase in assessments.

Discussion of options for September field trip and meeting combination. Due to budgetary confines, Sacramento or San Diego as locations were discussed. Commission will await further budget considerations before making decision on whether to have a one-day meeting combined with the workshop or a two-day meeting.

Salina Valencia thanks the Commission for approving the Michael Kleeman project, updating the website from .com to .gov. Website should be operational by the end of 2018. Link to visit updated site available on the current site.

Currently tracking AB-1857, which is to be heard by the Senate in Transportation and Housing to be heard on June 26. AB-2681 passed the House and will be sent to the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee and Governmental Organizational Committee. Would like to revisit whether the Commission should take formal positions on bills, something it does not currently do.

HayWired Outsmart Disaster campaign update given. 39 businesses have signed up for the challenge completion, with 10 completing the project. E-mail subscriber amount up to 471. 42% open rate of e-mails sent, 20% higher than the national open rate for a state agency. Currently only open to the Bay Area, statewide launch to occur in October.

Partnership with League of California Cities to increase outreach on website, its members, Western City Magazine. Portal to be created specifically for League members, which will have tool kit, sample resolution, press release samples, and social media graphics. Webinar to be hosted to the League and its members in August. \$81,000 left for the campaign, which should last through mid-August. Project may require work and travel on the part of SSC staff and/or Commission members in the form of education materials, resolutions, and publications. Commission expresses concern that staff time may

be overcommitted. More funding is required to do further outreach and communication to business organizations. Questions raised about the webinar presenter. Visibility and outreach are important factors for the Commission. Major funder to shepherd forward the project desired.

XII. Public Comment

Elena Miller spoke about the CalCAP program. CalCAP expanded through SB-837 to now include residential property financing through the program. Update received on AB-1547, an omnibus bill that includes language on qualifications to deem a building eligible to have a bank enroll a loan into the CalCAP program. Legislation language clarifies the requirements for a building official to determine the building's safety and hazard for collapse in an event. AB-1547 removes the requirement for owner occupancy for commercial and multi-unit buildings, expanding the opportunity for participation.

XIII. Miscellaneous & Good of the Meeting

XIV. Adjournment

Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting.