



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting

State Capitol, Room 447

Sacramento, CA 95814

September 13, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order after a quorum was reached.

Roll Call:

Present:

Chairperson Michael Gardner
Vice Chairperson Tracy Johnson
Elizabeth Hess representing Ken Cooley
Ryan Arba representing Mark Ghilarducci
Randall Goodwin
Mia Marvelli
Jorge Meneses
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto

David Rabbitt
Ian Parkinson
Timothy Strack
Fuad Sweiss
Edward Valenzuela
Andrew Tran
Chester Widom
Ivan Wong

Absent:

Cindy Silva
Anthony Cannella

II. Chairman's Remarks:

Chairman Gardner thanked the Commission and staff for their participation in the workshop held on September 12, 2018, noting good discussions and direction for staff. He stated his desire to hold this type of workshop on an annual basis.

Based on review and discussion, by motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the January 11, 2018, and January 24, 2018, meetings were approved as presented with the following correction to the January 11, 2018, minutes:
Change reference from “NEO” to “NGL.”

III. Expected Earthquake Performance of Buildings Designed to the California Building Code

Discussion:

Speaker - *Grace Kang, Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center*

Discussion:

Grace Kang presented an update on the funded education project brochure. The project goal is to communicate fundamental information that underlies the California Building Code design for earthquakes and, hopefully, trigger public awareness. The three primary audience groups targeted are family, business, and community. The Commissioners were asked to provide input relative to the specific content of the brochure being created. Comments or suggestions should be sent to Executive Director McCarthy, who will collate the information and forward it to Ms. Kang.

IV. Post-Disaster Business Recovery: Learning from Japan’s Experiences

Speaker – *Executive Director Richard McCarthy in place of Professor Guna Selvaduray, Ph.D, San Jose State University*

Discussion:

Executive Director McCarthy presented information on educational and corporate outreach projects. He noted a bilingual Japanese/English survey has been sent to 1,400 Japanese businesses in California asking for detailed information about their post-disaster recovery needs. Approximately 130 have responded to the surveys so far.

A final report will be forthcoming for the Commission. Executive Director McCarthy explained the benefits of Dr. Selvaduray’s team’s fluency speaking Japanese during discussions with Japanese business organizations and the increased partnership, information-sharing, and trust gained from these interactions.

V. Expansion of the ALERT Wildfire Network in California

Speakers – *Professor Graham Kent, University of Nevada, Reno; Professor Neal Driscoll, University of California, San Diego*

Discussion:

Professors Graham Kent and Neal Driscoll, who developed the infrared camera system for the early detection of earthquakes, spoke about the expansion of the system for early wildfire detection and tracking. Professor Kent stated the early warning system for wildfires is part of building a platform to provide early warnings for multiple potential threats, as well as the ability to announce the need for evacuations and designated evacuation routes.

Former Governor Gray Davis spoke with the Commissioners via telephone regarding the development of the technology and placement of infrared cameras to provide early detection of wildfires. He emphasized the importance of the camera system for fire safety, protection of lives, and the State's ability to continue to successfully combat climate change.

Governor Davis reported that to date San Diego Gas & Electric is utilizing the camera system, Southern California Edison has committed to 160 cameras, and discussions have been held with Pacific Gas & Electric on their use. Governor Davis stated the camera system has been extremely successful in the San Diego area and noted he hopes the Commission will be able to interact with the State Legislature to find ways to expedite the installation process.

Professor Kent emphasized the need for multiple agencies and areas to work together. It was noted that stakeholder groups cannot implement full systems without assistance, and the point was made that territorial conflicts must be overcome between the interested groups and they must work together to address the large need. The damages from natural disasters, whether they be from fires, earthquakes, or floods, have impacts ranging from loss of life to property damage to poor air quality to the ability of victims to obtain insurance coverage after an incident, among others.

Professor Driscoll presented a slide overview of the ALERT Wildfire Network. He noted the system allows a situational awareness in real-time allowing responses to be coordinated and refined. Professor Driscoll echoed other speakers' sentiments about the importance of doing the work and spending the money on the front end through the expansion of this system rather than paying much higher costs after the damage has been done after an incident.

Commissioner Widom offered to assist in giving access to state owned cell towers for the deployment of the camera system.

VI. Director's Report

Executive Director McCarthy remarked his Director's Report was provided at the workshop on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment.

VIII. Miscellaneous & Good of the Meeting

Lena Daniel noted the honorarium forms will be completed and sent via e-mail. Request made for Commission members to sign and return both scanned copy and via mail.

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting.