



State of California
ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



Governor Gavin Newsom

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
2495 Ramco Street, Suite 195
West Sacramento, CA 95691
November 14, 2019

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michael Gardner, Chairperson. Salina Valencia, Legislative/Communications Director, conducted the roll call.

Present:

Michael Gardner
Mia Marvelli
Representative Ryan Arba for Mark Ghilarducci
Jorge Meneses
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto [arrived late]
David Rabbitt
Cindy Silva
Fuad Sweiss
Representative Jim Hackett for Ida Clair
Ivan Wong
Timothy Strack [arrived late]

Absent:

Jerry Hill
Andrew Tran

II. Chairman's Remarks

Discussion:

Chairperson Michael Gardner indicates if there are amendments to any reports or publications that are not adopted today, he is asking for consensus on agreement that a committee of two commissioners can incorporate those changes while staff is at its peak level.

Minutes of May 9th are adopted.

III. Homeowner's Guide – Adoption of Homeowner's Guide Update.

Speaker – *Cindy Silva, SCC Commission*
Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Janet Osterdock, Zoom Media

Discussion:

Commissioner Silva presented an update on the Homeowner's Guide. Fred Turner, Bob Anderson, Commissioner Wong, Commissioner Silva and Commissioner Goodwin all worked on the update.

Support was secured by Zoom Media and Janet Osterdock.

Commissioner Rabbit made the motion to approve the amendments made by the committee. Commissioner Strack seconded. All were in favor and no one opposed.

IV. Update on the AlertWildfire Camera

Speakers – *Dr. Neal Driscoll, UC San Diego*
Dr. Graham Kent, University of Nevada Reno
Richard McCarthy, Executive Director;
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer;

Discussion:

Dr. Driscoll discussed the AlertWildfire cameras throughout the state. There are currently over 300 cameras with a target of 1,000. The cameras were designed to verify 911 calls. The cameras can see about 70 miles during a clear day and 120 miles at night with near-infrared and can be moved remotely. There are little clusters or regional networks that are run by local emergency command centers.

Executive Director McCarthy discussed his privacy issue concerns with the cameras.

Commissioner Sweiss asked if the cameras are always kept Off and only turned On when there is a fire. Dr. Driscoll explained that the cameras are always on but rotated to the direction of fire when it happens. Dr. Driscoll said this will only take few minutes. Commissioner Sweiss also asked if fires can be detected from satellite imagery like other damage assessments technologies developed by JPL. Dr. Driscoll indicated the camera resolution is better because it allows operators to zoom in. Commissioner Sweiss also suggested exploring other ways to detect fires because time is of the essence and the faster fires are detected, the sooner it can be eliminated.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there was coordination with Dr. Driscoll and his team and JPL will look into Commissioner Sweiss' concerns.

V. Post Disaster Economic Recovery: Lessons from Japan

Speakers – *Professor Guna Selvaduray, San Jose State University*

Discussion:

Professor Selvaduray explained that this project was the third part of a three-part post-earthquake economic study by the Commission. The first was done by Deloitte. The second was completed by the Small Business Development Center of California. The major effort of this project was to survey Japanese companies in California to identify what their anticipated disaster needs might be for business recovery.

The availability of capital and financial assistance was a major priority. This included: expedited insurance payments, interest-free loans, and assistance for renting facilities. Without having the cash or access to funds, they cannot recover quickly.

Japanese companies are very interested in outreach from local governments and want to work more closely with them. These companies prefer a one-stop shop to expedite the restoration of services, especially utilities and lifelines. Continued updates on secondary hazards, like fires would be of great value.

They would also like the workers to be available and to return to work as soon as possible. Payments directly to help the employees to cover their expenses until the companies can get their cash flow back up and running and with better access to unemployment programs.

Professor Selvaduray recommended using this study as the foundation to engage other California Companies to identify what policies are needed to speed post-disaster economic recovery for the State. The Japanese companies in California are in a unique position to be able to contribute to this effort.

The report was approved unanimously.

VI. Draft Finding and Recommendations from the Ridgecrest Earthquake Sequence of July 4th and July 5th, 2019.

Speakers – Fred Turner, SCC Staff Structural Engineer
Bob Anderson, SCC Staff Senior Engineering Geologist
Richard McCarthy, SCC Executive Director

Discussion:

Staff Senior Engineering Geologist, Robert explained the location of the fault that caused the Ridgecrest earthquake sequence and its potential relationship to the Garlock fault. He also described the seismicity associated with the two larger earthquakes.

Mr. Fred Turner, staff Senior Structural Engineer presented the report's five major recommendations:

- Increase local government capabilities to more effectively respond to disasters
- improve the delivery of mental health services
- improve business emergency and recovery capabilities
- improve eligibility for post-disaster government funding
- increase ground motion prediction and fault monitoring

There are 20 additional recommendations that have been proposed to be relegated to the appendix but it's an open market. Any commissioner can either relegate one of the recommended priority recommendations back to the appendix or bring one of the recommendations from the appendix up as a priority.

Commissioner Silva had a question on what the role of the county and state is. Because, as Commissioner Rabbitt pointed out, it is the counties, not the cities that can address and move resources. She suggested strike teams that are not only first responders but strike teams in terms of health and mental health and safety assessment. She also voiced concerns about rural areas during events and lack of resources/shelters.

Commissioner Rabbitt added that there was great mutual aid and Cal OES has always been a great partner.

Fred Turner said there is an existing recommendation in the appendix, letter H, school nonstructural bracing and welcomes edits.

Commissioner Wong questioned where the responsibility lies in inspecting schools on a periodic basis for nonstructural or structural vulnerabilities. Commissioner Hackett said the state architect has no authority on a school site to inspect outside of the project under construction. Once construction is completed, it falls strictly to the jurisdiction of the school district or owner of that facility to do maintenance and observation.

Commissioner Marvelli stated that the recommendations are not in order of priority and is looking for clear information on how the commission wants to improve items one, possibly two and five. Another possible recommendation is moving it from the appendix up to the front and is asking for permission to the staff and the subcommittee to go ahead, make changes as recommended and approve the report.

A recommendation was given that if commissioners have substantive changes rather than just editorial changes, they should mention them at this meeting to give clear direction

Commissioner Wong agreed that the instrumentation should not be a high priority and that the school safety issue should be brought forth. He expressed concerns on the recommendations not being balanced.

Commissioner Hackett indicated as school safety is discussed, it's broader. Nonstructural occurred in commercial buildings as well, so maybe it's more of a nonstructural. But he is happy to use the word 'school' but he thinks it's broader.

There was a motion by Commissioner Marvelli and second by Commissioner Wong to swap the nonstructural with the instrumentation. An amendment was made that the recommendation for nonstructural would be for all buildings.

Commissioner Silva moves to direct the ad hoc committee and staff to revise the report based on today's recommendations as well as any additional recommendations that may come from commissioners by November 18th.

VII. Executive Director Report

Speakers – *Richard McCarthy, Executive Director*

Discussion:

Mr. McCarthy says we're working with fiscal services on budget team to revise the budget projections based on some options that are being considered. After working with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the information will be passed on to the full Commission. Mr. McCarthy stated that the Commission will not finish the fiscal year in the red.

The dates for the commission meetings in 2020 will be: January 9, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12.

Chairman Gardner stated that whatever the Department of Finance recommends, will most likely be included in the governor's proposed budget in January.

Approval was just given to pay per diem that was submitted for the Ridgecrest hearing.

Assembly member Nazarian is intending to reintroduce AB-393, on functional recovery. The Commission will continue to work with Assembly member Nazarian's office and assist in providing technical advice.

Executive Director McCarthy informed the Commission that it was being audited by the State Personnel Board. The topics under review are compensation, equal employment opportunity programs, examinations, leave, mandated training, pay population appraisals, personnel services, contracts and policy.

Mr. Fred Turner, staff senior structural engineer stated that the Commission did not review the SFPUC's Water Delivery Improvement Project because there were no project delays in 2019.

There may be a need for an emergency meeting in December.

VI. Public Comment

Discussion:

None.

VII. Miscellaneous & Good of the Meeting

Discussion:

None.

VIII. Meeting Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Michael Gardner, Chairperson.