



State Of California
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.



NEWS RELEASE

**Seismic Safety Commission Issues Priority Recommendations for
Renewed Investment in Seismic Resilience across California**

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Contact: Salina Valencia
(916) 263-5506

The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission has released a study of the August 2014 South Napa earthquake that includes 20 findings and 12 priority recommendations for improving seismic resilience in California.

The study entitled “**The Mw 6.0 South Napa Earthquake of August 24, 2014: A Wake-up Call for Renewed Investment in Seismic Resilience across California**” found, among other things, that the earthquake demonstrated the long-term benefits of California’s highway bridge earthquake strengthening program. However, it also found the need for additional investment to make Californians safer.

The M6.0 South Napa earthquake of August 24, 2014 took the lives of two people, injured 300 others and caused moderate to severe damage to more than 2,000 structures. It was one of the first damaging earthquakes to strike a major metropolitan area in California in more than two decades. During that time, California’s population has grown by more than 25%, the state’s economy has tripled, and many of the state’s new residents and businesses have never experienced a major earthquake.

“It is almost guaranteed that there will be a major damaging earthquake somewhere in the state within the next 30 years,” said Commission Chairman Timothy Strack. “Thus, the South Napa earthquake is a wake-up call to renew investment and action to enhance the seismic resilience of communities, businesses, and residents across the state.”

“The priority recommendations contained in the report present achievable goals for state policy makers,” said Commission Chairman Strack. “They were selected on the basis of their urgency, and the logistical and financial viability of being achieved in the near-term.”

The Commission engaged the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER), to conduct the study to better understand impacts and lessons learned from local, State and federal representatives, and residents and businesses impacted by the earthquake.

The 12 priority recommendations in the study are the result of public testimony, interviews of local government and businesses, and a workshop involving the Commission, Commission staff, and Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center. Some of these recommendations included:

- Evaluate and enhance, as needed, training and inspection materials for school districts and staff to seismically secure non-structural systems, equipment, contents and furnishings in public and private schools.

- Convene a State task force that identifies vulnerabilities, mitigation options, and financial mechanisms to enhance the seismic resilience of local water and wastewater systems, particularly in areas which lack alternative water supplies for firefighting.
- Evaluate and enhance, as needed, penalties and other consumer protections against post-disaster scamming by contractors and cost inflation.

The study is jointly published by CSSC (Publication 16-03) and PEER (Report No. 2016/04) and can be found here www.seismic.ca.gov and here http://peer.berkeley.edu/publications/peer_reports/reports_2016/reports_2016.html.

The Seismic Safety Commission was established in 1975 to advise the Governor, Legislature, State and local government agencies, and the public on ways of reducing the earthquake risk to the people of California. It is an agency composed of 20 commissioners chosen for their expertise and experience.
