



State of California  
ALFRED E. ALQUIST  
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



***Governor Gavin Newsom***

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting  
Zoom Teleconference Meeting  
July 9, 2020

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Michael Gardner, Chairperson. Tanya Black, Administrative Processes Manager, conducted the roll call.

**Present:**

Michael Gardner, Chair  
Mia Marvelli, Vice Chair  
Representative Jim Hackett for Ida Clair  
Representative Elizabeth Hess for Ken Cooley  
Representative Rachel Sierer Wooden for Mark Ghilarducci  
Jorge Meneses  
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto  
Timothy Strack  
Cindy Silva  
Fuad Sweiss  
Andrew Tran  
Ivan Wong

**Absent:**

Jerry Hill  
Mark Ghilarducci  
David Rabbitt  
Ken Cooley  
Ida Clair

## **II. Approval of Seismic Safety Commission May 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

### **Discussion:**

The Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) discussed the meeting minutes of May 14, 2020. Motion to approve by Commissioner Strack, seconded by Commissioner Sweiss. Motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Chairman's Remarks**

### **Discussion:**

Chairman Gardner discussed that SSC is not changing its process for selecting Chair and Vice chair. The chair is going to appoint a Nominating Committee of two committee members. Those two commission members do not wish to serve as Chair or Vice Chair. Commissioner Marvelli participated last time in this process, developed a good, fair and open process. Anyone who was interested submits their interest and their qualifications, the Committee may at its discretion interview applicants for the positions and make a recommendation for Chair and Vice Chair at our next meeting. At that time, there will be an opportunity for not only discussion but nominations from the floor, a commissioner can self-nominate, or a commissioner can nominate another commissioner. Anyone with an interest, whether recommended by the committee or decide they would like to seek one of the offices after the committee process, can do that. They will need to describe their qualifications at that time. The commission will then select a Chair and Vice Chair.

With that, the Chair would like to appoint as the Nominating Committee, Commissioner Marvelli and Commissioner Strack. Commissioners Marvelli and Strack affirm they are willing and able to serve on the committee.

The Chair's suggestion is that the committee work through the staff to send an email to all commission members asking for statements of interest, position they are interested and include their qualifications. The committee will move forward with their analysis process, form their recommendation and make a report of recommendation to the full commission at our next meeting. The Commission will take a vote and select the Chair and Vice Chair at that time. The Chair thanked for staff for their hard work keeping the Commission moving remotely.

## **IV. Update on Commission Relocation to CalOES**

**Speaker – *Richard McCarthy, Executive Director***  
***Salina Valencia, Legislative/Communications Director***

## **Discussion:**

Salina Valencia, Director of Legislation and Communications announced that on July 1st, the Commission was officially transferred from Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BSCH) to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) due to the signing of the California State Budget.

SCC staff has been working with various departments on the transition. Ms. Valencia stated that from a staff perspective, the priority is working with the Human Resources and administrative units within CalOES to complete the transfer. This is a priority because they are creating the Commission as a new unit within CalOES, which is a heavy coordinated process between various departments within CalOES and Department of General Services (DGS). CalOES's team has been extremely helpful in coordinating the transfer process.

Ms. Valencia acknowledge that SSC needs to be intergraded into CalOES communication department and legislative department, but the sole focus is to complete the administrative portion of the transfer first. Ms. Valencia acknowledged staff will be working with I.T. services and website management to coverts these services as well.

Staff expects that September there will be another update on the progress of the transfer they will have a more complete picture as far as the transition.

Public member, Devon Lombard, CIAC - Construction Instructional Association of California spoke regarding an update on AB 429, a seismic inventory bill that's been discussed within the legislature recently. As CalOES and the SSC align, is there an update on that bill if it's going to move forward or the funding is going to be clarified?

Ms. Valencia's stated that with COVID-19, the Legislature has had to re-prioritize all the legislative bill packets. The Legislature is on summer recess and won't reconvene until July 27th. Ms. Valencia informed that AB 429, is on third reading in the Senate and they Member could take the bill up for a vote once the Legislature convenes.

Ms. Valencia conveyed that she has been in contact with the Member's staff and they were still waiting on direction from their Member as to whether the bill would move forward. Ms. Valencia stated that a bill analysis was provided on this bill and has worked collaboratively with CalOES legislative staff regarding the potential impact of this bill.

The next item was taken out of order on the agenda for presentation purposes.

## **V. Report on Collaboration and Partnership efforts regarding "Fire Following Earthquake"**

**Speaker – Richard McCarthy, Executive Director  
Chief Larry Collins, Cal OES (Presentation)**

## Discussion:

Executive Director McCarthy introduced Chief Larry Collins from CalOES fire. Mr. McCarthy stated that a conference call was held in early July with representative from CalOES, the Seismic Safety Commission, the University of California San Diego, the re-insurance industry, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Chief Collins made a presentation on the status of the “fire following earthquake” hazard in the State. Mr. McCarthy requested Chief Collins to make his PowerPoint presentation to the full Commission. In addition, Mr. McCarthy requested that CalOES fire review the Commission’s scope of work for its project with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and comment on the project’s products.

Chief Collins presented information on the challenges for urban search and rescue teams after an earthquake. One of the greatest will be the numerous fires initiated by the shaking as was the case in the 1995 Kobe earthquake in Japan and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. These earthquakes illustrate how fire following earthquake can potentially reduce the firefighters’ ability to get into buildings and reduce the survival time for victims.

A major concern is lack of water to suppress fires due to a damaged water delivery system. One solution to overcome this challenge is to use portable water supply systems that have been tested over the last few decades. Creating a temporary water main to deliver water to fires using super pumpers has been used.

Chief Collins informed the Commission of a new intelligence mobilization unit being staffed at CalOES Fire and Rescue and how the new earthquake early warning network can reduce the number of fires from breaking out.

The new AlertWildfire camera detection system will be expanded into the urban areas to help identify potential conflagrations developing and shaking damage to the built environment. This technology can improve 911 response time, especially if cell and land lines are down. Chief Collins stated that the thinking in the fire service is changing, knowing that if incipient conflagrations aren’t caught early, you end up with worse problems that could impact search and rescue, and evacuation.

Commissioner Strack said we need to find ways to partner together to identify with to save lives—especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Silva asked if homes damaged from water due to air drops to suppress fire are insured. Commission Tran responded that the fire department has immunity and cannot be sued but that homeowners should be covered by their insurance policies.

Commissioner Silva had a question about issues with power shut offs and the reaction from the public. Commission Silva stated that the public feels if the fire isn’t near them, why are you turning off their power? Chief Collins stated that during the shake out scenario, there was discussion about using the earthquake early warning network to shut down electrical grids

proactively to prevent fires from starting. Concerns on how this process would work and impacts that could occur need to be discussed.

## **VI. Update on Spanish translation of “Homeowner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety”**

**Speaker – *Cindy Silva, SCC Commissioner***

### **Discussion:**

Commissioner Silva indicates the process was initiated to translate the Homeowners Guide to Earthquake Safety to convert to a Spanish version. The translation has been completed and reviewed twice by Commissioner Meneses. It's being crosschecked and changes are being integrated. Once that is completed, within the next four or five days, the production process, putting in page layout and design will be started. It is anticipated it might take longer than ordinary because the Spanish translation is a bit longer than the English version. Adjustments will have to be made to get it as close as possible to a page by page version of it. Commissioners had no questions.

## **VII. Update of Commission’s “Property Owner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety”**

**Speakers – *Richard McCarthy, Executive Director***

### **Discussion:**

Mr. McCarthy mentioned this is the third project taking to CalOES. Commissioner Silva did an outline on what she and Commissioner Wong believed to update the guide. The guide is in statute and out of date. It was originally planned to be taken up after the Homeowner’s Guide was finished but the agency secretary of BCSH saw the value of the Homeowner’s Guide and wanted that in Spanish. The commission switched out the schedule and prioritized the Homeowner’s Guide translation. Staff will have a chance to meet with CalOES to see what they think about the revision. Retrofit solutions in the guide need to be reviewed and maybe new ones that should be included or old ones eliminated. That will be started on as soon as possible. There were no comments from Commissioners.

## **VIII. Interagency Agreement with California Geological Survey**

**Speakers – *Richard McCarthy, Executive Director***

### **Discussion:**

Executive Director Richard McCarthy stated that during the mission-based review with the Department of Finance, the recommendation was not to fill the geology position. The Interagency Agreement to cover that as-needed basis. Tanya Black Administrative Processes Manager received examples from California Geological Survey on their Interagency

Agreements. The plan is to budget \$50,000 for that service. The agreement will be entered into but any project that would be completed under that Interagency Agreement would come before the Commission first for authorization. The agreement will be ready should it be needed rapidly. Involving the Interagency Agreement with California Geological Survey (CGS), a competitive bid does not have to be completed. That will save a lot of time if something is needed rapidly. This may qualify for funding out of the research fund. A discussion needs to be had with CalOES on this matter to be consistent with their policies.

Chair Gardner clarifies that no dollars would be spent unless a project comes up and this preestablishes a framework to be used quickly if needed.

Commissioner Marvelli made the following motion: To allow the SSC staff to develop the necessary guidelines, framework and work with CalOES in case something happens between now and the next meeting, it's in place. Any future projects that authorization be asked for from the Commission. It was seconded by Commissioner Silva. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed.

#### **IX. Executive Director Report**

**Speakers – *Richard McCarthy, Executive Director***  
***Salina Valencia, Director of Legislation & Communications***  
***Tanya Black, SCC Staff***

#### **Discussion:**

Salina Valencia Director of Legislation and Communications indicated the Legislature will reconvene on the 27th of July. There has been reports that members and staff of the legislature have tested positive for the coronavirus which has led to the delay from the Summer Recess. Ms. Valencia state the priority to ensure the safety and health of members, staff and public has been a focus. With that they too have enacted a telework policy.

AB 1997 Nazarian Building codes: earthquake safety: functional recovery standard was held under submission in the assembly appropriations.

In AB100, trailer bill, has new saltatorial requirements that lines out reorganization of the SCC. The amended statute will be sent to Commissioners.

SCC's staff focus is for the transition dealing strictly with the human resources and administration side of the process. Still coordinating with BCSH making sure to close out files on that end. And have an exit interview with the under secretary, possibly the secretary, on the time with BCSH.

The translation of the Homeowner's Guide was a request of the agency Secretary, Castro Ramirez. An update will be given to her on that. Coordinated effort to promote the

Homeowners Guide through BCSH, since this is a priority for the Secretary of the housing issues. A connection will be made with them, a campaign in terms of promoting the Homeowner's Guides, both English and Spanish once the Spanish is completed.

Working on the transition making sure everything is transferred to CalOES. Not physically moving to CalOES' campus. There was discussion of a move. There was it's recommended on all sides to stay in the current location due to the fact there is a hard lease for three years. An anticipated change is email address. Try to keep phone numbers. Transferring website into CalOES and working with the I.T. team on that.

Commissioners had no questions.

Tanya Black Administrative Processes Manager provided an update regarding the emails Commissioners have been receiving regarding the census 2020 campaign and encouraging Commissioners as well as constituency to get the word out. The campaign will be continuing.

SSC is continuing to work on the administrative transfer from DGS to CalOES. A list of commissioners was provided to CalOES and any per diem requests should be submitted as soon as possible.

Executive Director Richard McCarthy said the commission finished last fiscal year in the black, 100,000 plus. An exact number will be given at final close out. Given the shortages and challenges, staff did a great job.

#### **X. Public Comment**

None.

#### **XI. Miscellaneous & Good of the Meeting**

Commissioner Hackett had a question on agenda item six, the Property Owners Guide to Earthquake Safety. Question: Was that a joint project? Different agencies are involved and is the Commission involved in that document? The response was that document is in statute. Commission is tasked with developing a Commercial Property Owners Guide to Earthquake Safety, similar in the homeowners with the exception there is a disclosure form in that guide. That is required to be given, I am the seller of the property, you are going to buy my property. I must give you the property of the guide, and there is a disclosure form I must fill out. In the Commercial Property Owner's Guide, it's required for commercial properties, certain ones sold before 1975 there is a disclosure form. The legislation says all I'm required is to give you the guide and disclosure form. I'm not required to fill it out. That's how it's different. We need to get it revised first. Both documents are Commission documents.

Commissioner Sweiss would like to have a discussion on how to work together to solicit and invite participate with other organizations, nonprofits, associations, and entities that deal with

the same issues the Commission works on and promote to have joint efforts with such associations and groups. How to invite more participation or ask whether committees or the Commission in general can participate in other meetings. He would like to have a discussion on this. The chair suggests adding this as an item on the next agenda.

## **XII. Meeting Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM by Michael Gardner, Chairperson.