



State of California
ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



Governor Gavin Newsom

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
May 14, 2020

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 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
Ken Cooley (arrived at 9:40 AM)
Representative Elizabeth Hess for Ken Cooley
Jorge Meneses
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto
David Rabbitt
Timothy Strack
Cindy Silva
Fuad Sweiss
Andrew Tran
Ivan Wong (arrived at 9:57 AM)
Rachel Sierer Wooden, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (non-voting)

Absent:

Jerry Hill
Mark Ghilarducci
Ida Clair

II. Approval of SSC March 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

The Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) discussed meeting minutes of March 12, 2020. Motion to approve by Commissioner Silva, seconded by Commissioner Sweiss. Motion passes unanimously.

III. Chairman's Remarks

Discussion:

At the previous meeting, Commissioner Sweiss requested that the SSC have a discussion on how it elects its Chair and Vice Chair. The staff summarized its current officer nomination and selection process and placed it on the Commission's May 2020 agenda for review. Chairman Gardner asked the SSC if it wanted to change its selection of officer's procedures. If the answer was yes, a subcommittee would be appointed to take suggestions from commissioners, from the staff, and members of the public. The subcommittee would report its recommendations to the full SSC which would select a new process. If the answer was no, the current process would be continued.

The commissioners presented their points of view on this issue.

Chairperson Gardner called for a motion on the question of whether the commissioners desires to change its selection of officer's process. Commissioner Silva moved to retain the existing process and to revisit the question after the commission has gone through the transition into California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the reconstitution of the SSC size and composition. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Relocation of Commission to California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Speaker – *Richard McCarthy, SSC Executive Director*

Discussion:

Director McCarthy announce that the Governor's May Revise was going to be released today.

At the end of last year, Department of Finance performed a mission-based review process of the SSC. This consisted of a very detailed audit of what purpose the SSC serves, how it uses outreach, what products it develops, and the value of these products to the public. The Department of Finance interviewed all staff members, several commissioners and stakeholders. Based on these interviews and the review of selected commission products, the Department of Finance concluded that the SSC had value and would be more efficient within CalOES. This was

based on the similarities of the two organizations dealing with seismic hazard and risk reduction.

For the SSC to produce more products and improve efficiency, Department of Finance recommended that CalOES would assist with the SSC's administrative tasks. Department of Finance also proposed to augment the Commission's FY 2020/2021 budget by \$949,000 from the General Fund \$713,000 per year beginning in FY 2021/2022.

Commissioner Gardner' question: Assuming the Commission moves to CalOES, what assurance is there that the Commission would continue to control their research fund? The intention is the fund would transfer over to CalOES.

SSC Executive Director McCarthy stated the Superior Court's Gift Agreement designated the SSC oversight of its Research Fund.

Commissioner Marvelli inquired if the SSC intended to physically move to CalOES campus? Executive Director McCarthy stated that Department of Finance stated it was cost effective to have the SSC remain at its current location through the hard portion of its lease which expires in 3 years.

V. Spanish Homeowners Guide to Earthquake Safety

Speaker – *Cindy Silva, SCC Commissioner*
Richard McCarthy, SSC Executive Director

Discussion:

During SSC's Executive March Meeting with Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH), Secretary Castro Ramirez requested that the updated Homeowners Guide be translated into Spanish. To accomplish this, the SSC entered into an Interagency Agreement with San Jose State University. The agreement requires San Jose State University to provide a final draft of the document by July 31, 2020. The SSC cost to translate the document will be less than \$10,000.

Commissioner Wong had no additional comments.

Commissioner Meneses agreed to assist with the translation by providing advice and review a draft.

No action was taken on this item.

VI. Report on 2020 Puerto Rican Earthquake

Speakers – Kit Miyamoto, SCC Commissioner

Discussion:

Commissioner Miyamoto stated that there are about 32,000 damaged homes reported by FEMA, mainly in the west and southern regions of the island. To date, over 36,000 households applied for FEMA assistance. Out of 33,000 structures considered damaged, about 10%, have been red tagged, approximately 7,000 yellow tagged: and 23,000 green tagged.

Commissioner Miyamoto noted that he observed a lot of construction deficiencies—even in new structure. There were about approximately 87,000 people, or about 3% of the total island population of 3 million people impacted by this earthquake.

FEMA has funded a billion dollars, however, when the COVID-19 hit, the island went into shut down mode. Puerto Rico experienced two disasters: COVID-19 and the earthquake. Commissioner Miyamoto stated that there is a lack of engineers and licensed contractors. Because of this, residents may relocate to the mainland. Ten years ago, the islands population was 4 million people, today it has dropped to 3 million.

Commissioner Tran indicated that with post hurricane Maria and now with the earthquake, insurance companies are having a difficult time getting claim and engineering experts to the island.

VII. Commission Draft Annual Report for 2019

Speaker – Salina Valencia, SSC Director of Legislation & Communications

Discussion:

Salina Valencia, SSC Director of Legislation stated that the SSC's 2019 Annual Report was complete and needed a vote of approval from commissioners in order to be placed on the SSC's website.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Marvelli, seconded by Commissioner Sweiss. Motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Executive Director Report

**Speakers – Richard McCarthy, SSC Executive Director
Salina Valencia, SSC Director of Legislation & Communications**

Dr. Driscoll, Letter of Support for UC Multicampus Research Program Initiatives on Disaster Research and Mitigation

Discussion:

Executive Director McCarthy stated that budget projections through the end of June show the SSC completing the current fiscal year about \$122,000 in the black. Filling the vacant positions are on hold until after the SSC's transfer to CalOES.

Salina Valencia, SSC Director of Legislation and Communication stated that the Senate and Assembly have reconvened. The messaging from the Governor's office is to have members reevaluate the legislative packages and priorities due to the COVID19 pandemic and its priorities surrounding assistance.

From the beginning of the legislative year SCC has been monitoring AB 429 Nazarian Seismically Vulnerable Building: Inventory and AB 1997 Nazarian Building Codes: Earthquake Safety: Functional Recovery Standard. SSC has submitted a legislative bill analysis for AB 429 and the bill is currently on the inactive file on the Senate Floor. AB 1997 is slated to be heard in the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. SSC has not submitted a legislative bill analysis at this point. Ms. Valencia stated that she has been in communication with the member's legislative staff as to the intent of these bills moving forward.

Ms. Valencia provide an update regarding telework for both SSC staff as well as at the BCSH agency level. Ms. Valencia also stated that BCSH has been very helpful during this time and have been communicating daily with SSC staff. SSC staff has been providing daily updates through daily reports to the governor's office regarding impacts of COVID19. Ms. Valencia stated that a Governor's Executive Order was released that the urges departments and agencies not to enter into any contracts at this moment unless it's COVID related. Also, agencies and departments are discouraging from filling vacancies or hire any employees. At this time Executive Orders are being released weekly or sometimes daily.

Commissioner Cooley indicated all that the standing committees are only holding one policy hearing and then roll into the budget. A lot of the bills simply are not even being taken up to be heard. If it's not COVID related and not tied to a 2020 urgency, a lot of them are left in the pile, not being taken up. It's a very much narrowed down legislative process that we're operating under currently.

Dr. Neal Driscoll, UC San Diego, requested a letter of support to the UC Regents for his proposal that will establish a multicampus research program intended to attract students and develop new technologies that will benefit the People of California.

A copy of the SSC's letter of support to the UC Chair of Regents was provided to the commission.

Motion to send the letter as is by Commissioner Sweiss and seconded by Commissioner Strack. Motion passes unanimously.

Tanya Black, Administrative Process Manager reported that the Form 700 filing deadline has been moved to June 1st, 2020. To ensure timely reporting, she requested that commissioners turn in everything to be filed by May 25th.

Commissioner Wong had a question on whether the letter from EERI to the Governor opposing the Commission's relocation to CalOES was going to be discussed. Chairman Gardner indicated that this is an issue that will be worked out between the Administration and the Legislature. Commissioner Gardner stated that there are two members of the Legislature on the Commission and both are aware of the Governor's proposal regarding the relocation of the Commission. Commissioner Jim Hackett stated that believes the document is important for the commission to explore.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Miscellaneous & Good of the Meeting

Regarding the Pandemic impacts, Executive Director McCarthy stated that the Commission was one of the first, if not the first, state departments to transition its operations to telecommuting.

XI. Meeting Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM by Michael Gardner, Chairperson.