



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
In-person and Zoom Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Silva. Roll call was conducted by Tanya Black and the following Commissioners and Representatives attended in-person, virtually, or were absent:

Commissioner	In-Person	Virtual Attendance	Absent
Cindy Silva, Chair		X	
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair		X	
Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Alegría De La Cruz (Arrived 9:08am)		X	
Debra Garnes	X		
Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez		X	
Representative Irina Brauzman for Building Standards Commission	X		
Kevin McGowan		X	
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			X



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



II. Chair Remarks:

Chair Silva opened with a welcome and highlighted the importance of the in-person attendance of seven commission members to ensure a quorum. She also announced that the Executive Director would, for a short time, chair the meeting during her absence.

Chair Silva then shifted focus to recent global seismic events and briefly discussed the December 18, 2023, earthquake in Northwestern China, and the January 1, 2024, earthquake in Japan. Commissioner Miyamoto, currently in Japan, was mentioned for his involvement in post-earthquake efforts and is expected to provide a report later.

Chair Silva also commemorated past earthquakes, including the first anniversary of the Ferndale earthquake sequence in California, the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Northgate earthquake, and the February 6, 2023, earthquake in Türkiye. Chair Silva highlighted the ongoing need for vigilance in seismic safety, emphasizing that the commission's job is never complete, regardless of the season.

III. Public Comment:

Chair Silva opened public comments for items on the agenda. There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Seismic Safety Commission October 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made to approve by Commissioner De La Cruz and seconded by Commission Clair. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve the amended October 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

Commissioner	Yes Vote	No Vote	Abstained
Cindy Silva, Chair	X		
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair	X		



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Debra Garnes	X		
Alegría De La Cruz	X		
Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez	X		
Representative Irina Brauzman	X		
Kevin McGowan	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
	Total Votes: 12	Total Votes:	Total Votes:

**V. Approval of Seismic Safety Commission Strategic Plan:
Speakers: Annde Ewertsen, Executive Director, SSC**

The Executive Director presented an update on the Seismic Safety Commission's (SSC) Strategic Plan. Chair Silva and Commissioner Garnes, members of the ad-hoc committee, worked on revising the previously incomplete strategic plan.

A motion to approve by Commissioner Garnes and seconded by Commissioner Kim-Lopez. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to approve SSC's Strategic Plan passed unanimously.

Commissioner	Yes Vote	No Vote	Abstained
Cindy Silva, Chair	X		
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair	X		
Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Debra Garnes	X		
Alegría De La Cruz	X		



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez	X		
Representative Irina Brauzman	X		
Kevin McGowan	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
	Total Votes: 12	Total Votes:	Total Votes:

VI. Mobile Home Project

Speakers: Annde Ewertsen, Executive Director, and Jia Wang-Connelly, Senior Structural Engineer, SSC

Executive Director Ewertsen introduced the topic, highlighting the seismic vulnerability of mobile homes.

Jia Wang-Connelly, Senior Structural Engineer, discussed three key systems for reducing lateral load vulnerability:

- (1.) Engineered tie-down systems.
- (2.) Foundation systems.
- (3.) Earthquake Resistance Brace System (ERBS).

Jia Wang-Connelly pinpointed specific regulatory gaps and the outdated reference to the 1982 Uniform Building Code in ERBS regulations. These gaps highlight a disconnect between current seismic understanding and existing code provisions.

The proposed project aims to secure a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) Building Code Plus-Up Grant of \$300,000, with a 25% local match to be covered by in-kind staff contributions. The project's objectives include:

- Evaluating current code provisions
- Developing a testing program
- Analyzing data
- Recommending code improvements
- Understanding the benefit and cost of code changes
- Engaging the public in these changes



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Housing and Community Development's (HCD) support for this initiative was noted, emphasizing the project's alignment with broader seismic safety goals.

A motion to approve by Commissioner Rabbitt and was seconded by Commissioner Garnes. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to direct staff to complete and submit the BRIC grant sub-application passed unanimously.

Commissioner	Yes Vote	No Vote	Abstained
Cindy Silva, Chair	X		
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair	X		
Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Debra Garnes	X		
Alegría De La Cruz	X		
Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez	X		
Representative Irina Brauzman	X		
Kevin McGowan	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
	Total Votes: 12	Total Votes:	Total Votes:

VII. 2023 Seismic Safety Commission Reports

Speakers: Annde Ewertsen, Executive Director, and Tanya Black, Administrative Processes Manager, SSC

Chair Silva initiated the discussion and then excused herself at 9:43 a.m. Executive Director Ewertsen took over the discussion of the 2023 Annual Report. The report outlined the SSC's statutory authority and provided a



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



financial summary. The report detailed various funding sources: \$1,349,999 from the Seismic Safety Assessment Revenue through the Department of Insurance, \$269,000 from the general fund for operational expenses, \$15,000 from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a specific project, and \$700,000 from the California Research and Assistance Fund (CRAF).

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Garnes and was seconded by Commissioner Rabbitt. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to authorize SSC staff to make any necessary edits and finalize the 2023 Annual Report passed unanimously.

Commissioner	Yes Vote	No Vote	Abstained
Cindy Silva, Chair			
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair	X		
Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Debra Garnes	X		
Alegría De La Cruz	X		
Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez	X		
Representative Irina Brauzman	X		
Kevin McGowan	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
	Total Votes: 11	Total Votes:	Total Votes:

Administrative Processes Manager Tanya Black proceeded with the discussion on the 2023 Attorney General (AG) Report. She provided a brief history of the fund, which mandates the SSC to submit an annual report to the Attorney General's office, detailing activities and programs funded during the year, along with a financial summary.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



A motion to approve by Commissioner Rabbitt and was seconded by Commissioner Clair. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to authorize staff to make any necessary edits and finalize the 2023 AG report passed unanimously.

Commissioner	Yes Vote	No Vote	Abstained
Cindy Silva, Chair			
Representative Sean Connelly for Assemblymember Rodriguez, Vice Chair	X		
Representative Astighik Hakobyan for Senator Portantino	X		
Ida Clair	X		
Debra Gaines	X		
Alegría De La Cruz	X		
Representative Lori Nezhura for Nancy Ward	X		
Joone Kim-Lopez	X		
Representative Irina Brauzman	X		
Kevin McGowan	X		
Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto			
David Rabbitt	X		
Vincent Wells	X		
	Total Votes: 11	Total Votes:	Total Votes:

A break was taken at 9:53 am
The meeting reconvened at 10:09 am

VIII. California Geological Survey Updates
Speaker: Jeremy Lancaster, PG CEG, State Geologist,
Director of the California Geological Survey (CGS)

Executive Director Ewertsen directed that item XI. California Geological Survey Updates be heard out of order.

Jeremy Lancaster provided a comprehensive update on:

- CGS's activities and achievements in 2023



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



- The survey's seismic hazards activities, mentioning two principal programs the Seismic Hazards Program and the Earthquake Engineering Program
- Strong Motion Instrumentation Program and its four primary functions: field operations, data products, structure response and data utilization, and ground response
- Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Project
- The Seismic Hazard Zoning team's achievements in 2023
- The Tsunami/Coastal Hazards Program's accomplishments

IX. Building Code and Other Updates

Speaker: Ryan Kersting, S.E., Principal, BUEHLER Engineering, Co-Chair, Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAO) Legislative Committee, President, National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA), and Chair, 2026 NEHRP Functional Recovery Task Committee

Ryan Kersting, a principal at Buehler Engineering, provided an extensive update on developing updated seismic design provisions for functional recovery. The objective is to achieve a state of functional recovery within an acceptable time frame, varying based on the type of building or service. This approach moves beyond safety, considering the time frame needed for various buildings and services to recover, ranging from immediate needs like emergency services to less critical amenities that can afford longer recovery periods.

Concluding his presentation, Ryan Kersting called for the SSC to continue educating the public about what is achievable through building codes and to encourage local jurisdictions to supplement these codes for higher performance relative to community risks and vulnerabilities. The need for retrofitting existing buildings and considering the state's specific needs in terms of functional recovery, suggesting that California could lead the way as it has in other areas like green building design and energy efficiency.

X. Project Updates, Speakers: Annde Ewertsen, Executive Director, and Jia Wang-Connelly, Senior Structural Engineer, SSC



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Executive Director Ewertsen provided an update on the Ferndale & Türkiye Report project, comprising three components.

- Lessons Learned report: currently in draft and expected for internal review by the end of January 2024. The report will be ready for the April 11, 2024, SSC meeting.
- Incremental Damage Assessment: the contract is currently with PEER for scope finalization.
- Jia Wang-Connelly then spoke about the third part: the IN-CORE project, explaining it as a computational platform funded by NIST to quantify community recovery after natural disasters. Three cities - Rio Dell, East Richmond Heights, and Monte Sereno in California - were selected for the project. These cities were chosen for their similar sizes and populations but significantly different economic profiles.

Executive Director Ewertsen continued by providing an update on the progress of the fire station inventory project. The survey draft for this project has been approved by the ad-hoc committees, which include Commissioner Wells and Representative Gould. Additionally, the survey received input and was vetted by both Cal OES Fire and Rescue and CAL FIRE. Currently, it's in the testing phase with a selected group of fire stations.

Additional project updates included a discussion on the Northridge anniversary Quake Heroes project, for which the Statement of Work (SOW) was completed in December, but contract details with CalOES are being finalized, and the Shake.

Shake Table project. This project is expected to conclude by the end of the summer and may begin as early as late fall.

XI. Miscellaneous Announcements

Executive Director Ewertsen provided several miscellaneous announcements and updates:

1. Legislative Update:



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



- AB 1046, a chaptered bill, recast the exemption for alteration projects on structures for human occupancy if the alteration value does not exceed 50% of the appraised value.
 - AB 1505 and AB 1770 were moved to the inactive file.
 - SB 544 (Laird Bagley-Keene Open Meeting) was chaptered.
 - AB 1471 was also chaptered, extending the compliance deadline for a specific hospital.
2. Executive Director Ewertsen announced that Jia Wang-Connelly was invited to join the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) Structural Design/Lateral Forces Code Advisory Committee.
 3. A reminder about the upcoming election for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair was provided. Members will receive a statement of qualifications to review. Those interested in running for the Chair or Vice Chair positions need to submit the required form by March 15th.
 4. Several activities are planned to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake on January 17th:
 - a. Northridge 30th Symposium at Caltech: An event sponsored by the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California.
 - b. California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) is conducting a mobilization exercise, also known as Mobex, which is a combined agency exercise. It involves the California Regional Urban Search and Rescue (USR) and Rescue Task Forces (RTFs). This exercise will take place at the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation property in Santa Paula, California.
 - c. The Earthquake Country Alliance "Welcome to Earthquake Country" website will provide additional information and recognition activities for the Northridge Earthquake.
 5. A new SSC YouTube channel has been launched featuring previous commission meetings from 2023.
 6. The Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program opened for registration for 30 days. This grant program focuses on seismically retrofitting of single-family residences with raised foundations.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



7. Executive Director Ewertsen expressed gratitude to Salina Valencia for her nearly nine years of invaluable service to the SSC.

XII. Public Comment

There were no public comments on items that were not on the agenda.

XIII. Adjourn

Chair Silva concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th, during which the election for Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year will take place.

Chair Silva adjourned the meeting at 11:29 am

To view the full meeting recording go to the following link:

<https://youtu.be/KSUms8gLPOM?si=vMCgIpnDvQ-ilor>

Seismic Safety Commission Meeting Thursday January 11, 2024
 In-person and Teleconference Meeting 9:00am-1:00pm
 3650 Schriever Avenue Mather, CA 95655