

State of California  
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Commissioners

From: Richard McCarthy  
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Date: 4/30/14

Subject: **Joint Meeting Between Seismic Safety Commission  
Nevada Earthquake Safety Council**

**Background**

The mission of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC) is to provide decision makers and the general public with information and actions to reduce earthquake losses and speed recovery. The Council promotes earthquake awareness and preparedness through education, research and policy recommendations. The Council facilitates public input, develops consensus about seismic issues within the public and private sector, and is the public advisory body for State seismic safety policy. NESC has been in existence for over two decades. The Council has twenty board members with split representation from both northern and southern Nevada. NESC members come from academia, state and local government and the business sector.

The greatest seismic hazard in Nevada is sited within the Walker Lane Deformation Belt that straddles the California-Nevada border. This region carries nearly 25% of the entire North America-Pacific plate motion, with most of the deformation focused along the border of both states. Many earthquakes in this zone have the potential to inflict significant damage to infrastructure and injury and loss of life in both states. On August 13th, 2014, the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC) and NESC would like to hold the first joint meeting between these organizations. The tentative location would be in the North Tahoe area. This critical get-together would be a pivotal opportunity to

visit critical issues such as coordinated response between Nevada DEM and CalEMA, earthquake early warning (EEW) near the California and Nevada border, "tweener" earthquakes that are actually located on the border itself, and recent advances in seismic hazard analysis for the Tahoe-Truckee region.

A joint project between both organizations would help strengthen dialogue into the future; a project might involve science or may be focused on the preparation for, and mitigation of, economic impact from a large M7 earthquake on the border near the Tahoe-Truckee-Reno region. A brief overview of hazard in this region will be discussed to stimulate discussion on other potential topics for this meeting.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commissioners listen to Dr. Kent's presentation and make suggestions on what actions should be taken to make this first joint meeting between the organizations productive and action oriented.