

State of California  
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Commissioners of the Seismic Safety Commission

From: Richard McCarthy  
Seismic Safety Commission  
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Date: 7/6/16

Subject: Proposal: Post-Earthquake Business Recovery;  
Learning from Japan's Experiences

**Background**

California has had a long standing relationship with Japanese business partners that include efforts to reduce earthquake losses and speed economic recovery within the State. On September 5, 2014, Governor Brown signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that calls for improved collaboration on numerous projects between Japan and California.

For many years, the Commission has worked with both the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California and the Japanese Business Association of Southern California. Together, these organizations represent 1,470 Japanese companies in California and support 224,000 jobs with an annual California payroll of \$11 billion.

The companies are in a unique position to help the State develop post-disaster economic recovery policies based on their business experience within California. In addition, these companies can draw on the experiences of their parent companies, located in Japan, to best identify what successful post economic disaster polices could possibly be implemented in California.

Dr. Guna Selvaduray from San Jose State University, Chairman Strack, and Commission staff recently met with representatives of the two Japanese business organizations

and have developed the attached proposal to develop a pilot project. This project could lead to a larger effort in the development of post-economic recovery strategies to be applied on a broad basis throughout California.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission take note of Dr. Selvaduray's presentation and ask questions. This project would be coordinated with CalOES, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and the Japanese Consulate's offices located in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Staff recommends that the Commission consider the approval of this proposal and enter into contract with San Jose State University to complete the project. The length of contract will be one year.