

State of California
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commissioners

From: Richard McCarthy
Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-5506 x 230

Date: November 4, 2016

Subject: California Building Code Seismic Performance Intent
Educational Document Project

Background

One of the challenges in the earthquake policy field is bridging the public's expectation and knowledge of the intent of the California Building Code ("code") seismic provisions with respect to building performance. In other words, what might a building look like after an earthquake if the building were designed to the current code? What might an existing older building that was retrofitted to code look like after an earthquake?

This fundamental information is needed to create the groundwork to identify if the public's expectations are aligned with what is provided with respect to the code, and similarly, if what is being provided is acceptable to the public.

PEER - Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center - can create an educational document targeted to the general (i.e. non-technical, non-engineering) public, with the purpose of the document to better educate the general public and mitigate the risk to California posed by earthquakes. The deliverable would be a concise, clear and focused final report, along with an electronic file of a single sheet, double-sided, color info-graphic handout suitable for dissemination to the general public.

The intent of this educational document is not to develop a compendium of all information known about the California Building Code, but specific findings related to the objectives identified above. Details would be provided as needed in appendices to the report and by reference to other sources of information.

PEER would work cooperatively with a variety of organizations, companies and governmental entities to synthesize and analyze results they obtained regarding the expectations of seismic behavior of buildings and their contents, when designed to the provisions of the current California Building Code. Topic areas that would be studied include

earthquake effects on the built environment when designed to the current Building Code, and a general discussion of socio-economic impacts and expectations.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commissioners listen to Dr. Grace Kang's presentation and be prepared to ask questions and approve the attached proposal..