

State of California
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commissioners

From: Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer
Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-5506 x 225

Date: November 2, 2011

Subject: Update on the Pilot Program for Evaluation of the Most
Seismically Vulnerable California Public School Facilities

Background

The Commission (SSC) contributed \$200,000 to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) to develop an engineering template to be used by public school districts to apply for Prop 1D (Seismic Retrofit Funds). The template was finalized in late September 2010 and work on contacting and scheduling site visits to the school districts began in October 2010. At that time, nine school districts containing 38 buildings chose to participate in the evaluation process, of which 21 met all qualification standards and 17 did not. Seismic evaluations have been completed for all the 21 buildings and submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for review and approval.

With approximately \$72,000 funds remaining and \$50,000 funding added by the Commission at the May 12, 2011 meeting, OPSC agreed to make an effort to include more vulnerable buildings between that date and December 31, 2011. Current review costs for their rapid seismic evaluation are about \$123,000 and actual repair costs are estimated to be about \$76.2 million or higher from the Prop 1D funds, depending on further evaluation of the buildings.

Start date of the project was December 1, 2009 and the end date of May 31, 2011 was extended to December 31, 2011 in order to provide additional opportunity for OPSC to include more vulnerable buildings.

Update

OPSC sent, by email, the enclosed seismic evaluation notice to all school districts on the same day as the revised DSA 08-03 procedure and template were posted. School districts were quick to respond. Within two weeks, six school districts submitted eligibility evaluation requests for 45 buildings at an estimated evaluation cost of approximately \$100,000.

Enclosed:

Seismic Evaluation Notice to All School Districts and County Superintendent of Schools
OPSC's Progress Update Report on Including More Vulnerable Buildings.

TO: ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS

Subject: Request for “No-Cost” Seismic Eligibility Evaluation of School Buildings

As you may be aware, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved new Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) regulations to improve access to SMP grant funds at the June 22, 2011 SAB meeting. The OPSC, utilizing limited grant funds from the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC), will now provide “no-cost” seismic eligibility evaluations to school districts on a “first come, first served” basis until all grant funds are exhausted. School districts may submit requests to the OPSC to participate in this program to help identify and assess seismic risk potential of selected school buildings.

As a result of the new SMP regulations, the Division of the State Architect (DSA) revised DSA Procedure 08-03: Seismic Evaluation Report Review along with the standardized seismic eligibility evaluation report template (template). To view the procedure and template visit the DSA website. The template represents the first step in the SMP funding process. The template will be utilized by engineering firms hired by OPSC to perform the seismic evaluations of school buildings. The template is designed to identify structural systems and deficiencies, not to identify all life-safety issues or to provide a full structural engineer’s report. If it appears that a building will qualify for SMP funding based on site conditions such as liquefaction, land slide, or faulting, it does not qualify for a “No-Cost” evaluation. The template is not designed to provide SMP eligibility documentation of a building’s collapse potential due to these site conditions.

Districts opting to participate in the “no-cost” seismic eligibility evaluations must submit a request letter to the OPSC at the following address:

Office of Public School Construction
707 3rd Street
West Sacramento, CA. 95605

Subject: Seismic Eligibility Evaluation Request
Attn: Alan Shoemaker

The request letter, *signed by the District Representative*, must include the following:

- Specifics on each building in the seismic eligibility evaluation request including: 1) Site; 2) DSA number; 3) Building Identifier (i.e., bldg A); 4) square footage; 5) current use (i.e., classroom, gymnasium, kitchen); 6) original use (if applicable); 7) which building type classifies the building as “Most Vulnerable Category 2 Building” as identified in School Facility Program (SFP) Regulation Section 1859.82.
- Statement of how the District identified each Category 2 building and preliminarily identified each building’s collapse potential deficiency(s).
- Statement that each identified Category 2 building is designed for occupancy by students and/or staff.
- Statement of the District’s intentions and ability to participate in the SMP funding program.
- Name and contact information of District point-of-contact to coordinate seismic inspection details and inspector visit.

For a guide to assist Districts through the facility hardship process and provide direction on what is typically required in a complete facility hardship submittal, please access the facility hardship worksheet at www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/opsc/Forms/Worksheets/FacHS_WS.pdf.

For seismic evaluation program information contact Alan Shoemaker at 916-376-5359. For facility hardship program information please contact Jennifer Maestretti at 916-376-5338.

REPORT TO CALIFORNIA SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

SEISMIC MITIGATION PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2011

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INTRODUCTION

In November 2009, the California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC) provided the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) a \$200,000 grant to contract for structural engineering services to conduct evaluations at public K-12 school sites, preliminarily identified by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), which may be at risk during a seismic event. In addition, the contracts were designed to develop a standardized Seismic Eligibility Evaluation Report template (template). The template is intended to ensure standardized, cost effective evaluation reports for determining the seismic safety of school facilities.

Of the original 16 school districts in California with preliminarily qualified buildings, nine school districts, containing 38 identified buildings, chose to participate in the seismic assessment program utilizing the template. The original template was successfully used by structural engineers in the inspection and reporting process of all 38 preliminarily qualified school buildings. As a result of these reviews, six school districts, containing 21 buildings, were determined to be potentially eligible for Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) funding.

SEISMIC MITIGATION PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The SMP is authorized by the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1D) and School Facility Program (SFP) regulations [Section 1859.82(a)], and administered by the OPSC on behalf of the State Allocation Board (SAB). Proposition 1D provided \$199.5 million in grant funds for seismic mitigation construction projects for buildings determined to have "most vulnerable California school facilities" status. These grant funds are provided to repair, reconstruct, or replace the most vulnerable school facilities that are identified as Category 2 buildings determined to pose an unacceptable risk of injury to its occupants in the event of a seismic occurrence. To date, three school districts have received approximately \$19.0 million in SMP funding or SMP application approvals.

In March 2011, the SAB established a Seismic Mitigation Sub-Committee to consider program changes to increase participation in the SMP. The Sub-Committee met in March, April and May 2011 to develop regulatory amendment recommendations. Amendment recommendations were presented for full SAB consideration at the May and June 2011 SAB meetings. The amended program regulations that were designed to open up access to the SMP were adopted by the SAB on June 22, 2011 and approved by the Office of Administrative Law on September 8, 2011.

SEISMIC MITIGATION PROGRAM PROCEDURES

As a result of the amended regulations, the DSA amended SMP review procedures and the template. On September 15, 2011 the DSA posted the revised "Procedure DSA 08-03 – Seismic Mitigation Program Review" and the revised "Seismic Eligibility Review Report." The new procedure and template corresponds to the amended program regulations adopted by the SAB. The purpose of the new procedures is to set forth the requirements to be followed by applicant school districts seeking DSA approvals that are needed to apply for SMP funding under amended SMP regulations.

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TEMPLATE DEVELOPMENT/INSPECTIONS

As previously stated, 38 buildings were inspected in the first phase of SMP reviews. 21 buildings were deemed qualified in six districts. Two districts, Aromas-San Juan Unified School District (USD) and Oakland USD, containing 12 of the 21 qualified buildings, are moving forward with seismic mitigation/replacement plans.

Aromas-San Juan USD (seven qualified buildings) is currently in the geologic site inspection stages of the SMP approval process. The District currently has no time estimate for submission of mitigation/replacement plans to DSA. Oakland USD (five qualified buildings) completed their mitigation plans and the district anticipates plans submission to DSA by this report date. The OPSC continues outreach efforts to the remaining districts which have, so far, chosen not to participate in the SMP.

SEISMIC ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION GRANT

During previous CSSC meetings, the OPSC received approval from the CSSC to retain unencumbered funds and to receive additional grant funds to provide additional funding to allow more school districts an opportunity to participate in both identifying and assessing seismic risk potential. Currently, there is \$127,347 of grant funding from CSSC that is available for template reviews.

On the day DSA posted the revised DSA 08-03 procedure and template, the OPSC posted an email to all school districts and county offices of education announcing the "No-Cost" Seismic Eligibility Evaluation of School Buildings Program (attachment). This seismic eligibility evaluation program was offered on a "first-come, first served basis until all CSSC grant funds are encumbered. School district requests resulted in either a program acceptance letter, a letter requesting additional information, or a program denial letter due to all funds being encumbered.

School districts were very quick to respond to this offer after regulations and DSA's revised procedures were posted. Within two weeks, six school districts had submitted eligibility evaluation requests for 45 buildings at an estimated evaluation cost of approximately \$100,000. The OPSC will continue outreach efforts until all grant funds are exhausted.

A NOTE TO THE COMMISSION

The OPSC again wishes to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the CSSC for its continuing support in assisting school districts in assessing their school facilities that may be at risk. Beginning with the original grant to provide for the development of the template and evaluations of buildings, through the Seismic Subcommittee meetings resulting in regulation amendments, and finally additional funding for seismic eligibility evaluations, the CSSC has proven to be the key that was necessary to "unlock" Proposition 1D funds for providing a safer and more secure learning environments for California's school children.