

State of California
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Commissioners

From: Commissioner Macari
Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-5506

Date: 9/3/13

Subject: **Partnering with Mexico to Reduce Seismic Risk**

Background

On July 22, 2013, Executive Director McCarthy and Commissioner Emir Jose Macari met with Counsel General of Mexico, Honorable Carlos Gonzalez-Gutierrez, to discuss possible bilateral projects between California and Mexico focused on three specific issues:

--Post-disaster economic recovery actions that protect jobs and businesses on both sides of the boarder such as agriculture, livestock, poultry, dairy, and other small businesses.

--Filling gaps in the tsunami warning buoy system of the coasts of California and Baja California (and perhaps even further south).

--Enhancing the reliability and resilience of water delivery systems in California and Baja California (as well as other north-western states of Mexico) such as levees, canals, dams, and other irrigation systems.

The meeting was followed by a specific letter from Mr. McCarthy to Consul General Gonzalez-Gutierrez (attached)

Our current contact is at the highest levels of the Mexican government in the person of Ambassador Bruno Figueroa-Fisher who is the new Director General of Technical and Scientific Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and former Consul General of Mexico in San Jose, California.

Ambassador Bruno Figueroa wrote to Mr. Luis Felipe Puente-Espinosa, National Coordinator of Civil Protection in which he stated the need for a meeting in Sacramento to discuss these bilateral collaboration projects and asked that CICESE (Research Center for Scientific Higher Education in Ensenada, the National Water Commission, the National Seismologic Service Agency and the National Center for the prevention of Disasters) to designate a specific contact person for the Commission to work through.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission listen to Commissioner Macari's presentation and provide direction as to what potential projects should be considered to be implemented through a partnership with Mexico.



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

July 25, 2013

Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez
Consul General
Mexican Consulate
2093 Arena Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Consul General Gonzalez Gutierrez:

On behalf of the California Seismic Safety Commission (Commission), I would like to thank you for the wonderful working relationship that exists between the Commission and your office. This relationship has been made possible by you and your staff's hard work, cooperation, and friendly style. The Commission is honored to have such an outstanding partner that is willing to work on projects that reduce the earthquake risk to the citizens of Mexico and California.

As you are aware, the Commission recognizes Mexico as a world leader in earthquake early warning. The monitoring system that Mexico has developed to provide early warning to Mexico City is an example of applied expertise that exists within Mexico's scientific community.

Furthermore, both California and vast extents of Mexico (west coast) are vulnerable to the effects of major seismic events. As we well know, earthquakes do not recognize territorial boundaries, as was clearly shown by the 2010 Mexicali (7.2 Magnitude) earthquake that affected Northern Baja California and Southern California.

The Commission would like to discuss a potential "partnership" with Mexico. Products developed from this partnership should benefit both Mexico and California and emphasize the overall positive working relationship between the two partners.

As an example, the projects that the Commission has considered are:

- post-disaster economic recovery actions that protect jobs and businesses in Mexico and California (i.e. agriculture, livestock, poultry, dairy industries as well as other small businesses)
- filling gaps in the tsunami warning buoy system off the coasts of Baja and California

✚ --making water delivery systems in California and Mexico more resilient to earthquakes

The Commission is willing to provide funds to support a project under this partnership. Should Mexico be interested in participating in a partnership with California, we would like to hold a meeting in Sacramento to discuss any suggestions Mexico might have on projects that would be of value to both partners.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-263-5506.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the letters.

Richard J. McCarthy
Executive Director