

State of California
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Commissioners

From: Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Seismic Safety Commission
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Date:

Subject: Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Collaboration

GEM is on-track for a late-November public launch of OpenQuake, which will include the open-source software, all underlying data, as well as graphical interfaces and visualization tools. We will hold a launch event in late January 2015. In the meantime, GEM will hold special sessions at the World Bank's Understanding Risk conference this July in London, the 10th National Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Alaska this July, and the 15th European Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Istanbul this August.

On December 31st, GEM's commission-approved project on recovery modeling cleared the State's non-competitive bid process. Since then, we have commenced work and developed a detailed work plan that assigns resources and specifies a timeline. The main deliverable of this project is to add recovery time as one of the measures that OpenQuake can reliably estimate, in addition to fatalities, number of collapses, and cost of damage.

GEM's other commission-approved project, on sensitivity testing ('beyond button pushing'), is now being routed through the NCB process. The Department of Insurance expressed particular interest in this project when Kate and Commission staff met with them on Feb. 26 to discuss collaboration opportunities. A DOI actuary from southern California clearly saw the potential value of this project's deliverables, and her specific comments will help GEM deliver project outputs in a format that is directly usable by DOI.

At GEM's January Governing Board meeting, the question came up whether the Commission could be upgraded from an Associate sponsor to a Public sponsor, and thus gain a voting seat, given the magnitude of funding approved (\$620,000 over two years). A decision on this has been deferred to our June meeting, in part to wait for the second proposal to clear NCB, and also to leave sufficient time to prepare a compelling

case.

Finally, GEM continues to expand our international presence. In February we conducted training for scientists from Canada, New Zealand, and Italy who will use GEM's software, OpenQuake, to develop their next-generation national seismic hazard maps (for use as the basis of building codes).

To conclude, GEM gratefully acknowledges the associate sponsorship of the Commission, and your support of GEM projects on resilience and sensitivity studies. We look forward to continued collaboration.