

State of California  
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commissioner

From: Dave King  
Seismic Safety Commission  
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Date: March 14, 2013

Subject: Agenda Item IX

**Background**

The Commission listened to Ms. Michele Woonacott at the November 8, 2012 Commission meeting discuss the potential effects from a disaster on small businesses in California.

Diane Howerton will provide an update on the CA SBDC proposal to include information on SBDC's outreach strategy to reach small business owners. In addition, she will share with the Commissioners several of the tools available to assist business owners in developing a disaster readiness and recovery plan.

Information for her introduction – Diane Howerton serves as the regional director for the Central Valley/Central Coast SBDC network, which is hosted by UC Merced. She oversees operations and strategy for the five SBDCs and two satellite centers in the 15-county Central California region. Diane also serves as a board member for the Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC), and sits on the ASBDC's disaster preparedness and recovery committee.

Staff recommends that the Commission listen to Ms. Howerton presentation and be prepared to ask questions.