

State of California
Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commission and staff

From: Fred Turner, Staff Structural Engineer
California Seismic Safety Commission
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833
Phone: (916) 263-0582 Fax: (916)263-0594 Email: Turner@StateSeismic.com

Date: 10-30-2012

Subject: U.S. Resiliency Council

Summary

A new non-profit organization called the U.S. Resiliency Council will establish a voluntary, market-driven rating and accreditation system to certify the resiliency of buildings responding to natural and man-made hazards.

New Seismic Resilience Rating and Accreditation System in the Works

The U.S. Resiliency Council plans to establish a Certification of Resilient Engineering (CoRE) rating system modeled after the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED Gold, Platinum, Silver rating system) for green buildings (new.usgbc.org/leed). The five-star CoRE rating system will include training, accreditation, and independent audits to ensure that ratings of building seismic resilience are consistent and comprehensive. Ratings of zero to five stars will consider aspects of safety, repair costs, and functional recovery times after damaging earthquakes. (www.usrc.org)

Mr. Evan Reis, a USRC Boardmember, will summarize USRC's efforts to date, the experience in New Zealand with a similar rating system, and implications for building owners and occupants in California's private and public sectors.

Staff Recommendations

Since market-driven changes in practice have the potential to influence seismic safety and resilience at low or no cost to governments, the staff recommends that Commissioners become familiar with the efforts of the U.S. Resiliency Council and similar efforts by the Earthquake Rating Authority in New Zealand.