

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting/Workshop
March 8, 2001
California Institute of Technology
Millikan Library Board Room, Building #32
1200 East California Blvd.
Pasadena, California

Members Present

Donald O. Manning, Chairman
Daniel Shapiro, Vice Chairman
Jerry C. Chang
William L. Gates
Douglas E. Mochizuki
Stan Y. Moy
Ashok S. Patwardhan
Patricia Snyder

Members Absent

Andrew Adelman
Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Bruce R. Clark
Scott P. Haggerty
Jeff Johnson

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy

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Abby Browning

Henry Sepulveda

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was called to order by Chairman Donald Manning at 9:00 a.m.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Manning thanked Caltech for hosting the meeting. He also commended the staff for organizing an interesting agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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ACTION: Commissioner Chang made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Snyder, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the February 8 meeting as proposed.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan Revision Committee

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Commissioner Snyder drew attention to the subcommittee meeting schedule. She invited commissioners to attend meetings of any subcommittee in which they have an interest.

Commissioner Gates requested that all subcommittees meet and finalize their sections before April 30. Commissioner Snyder urged commissioners to send their comments and suggestions to the staff as soon as possible.

Commissioner Snyder explained that the Commission and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) are responsible for developing, implementing, and updating the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*, the state's official mitigation plan. The current *Plan* expires in 2001, so the Commission has been working on revising the document to incorporate lessons learned in recent earthquakes, progress made on various initiatives, and adjustments in priorities. The Commission established subcommittees chaired by commissioners to revise each of the eleven elements of the *Plan*.

Commissioner Patwardhan offered comments on the basic philosophy of the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. He said recent earthquakes have yielded a great deal of useful information, and great strides have been made in refining analysis tools and technology. In particular, he pointed out that new loss estimation studies highlight the importance of implementing the initiatives as soon as possible. Drawing attention to the vision statement on Page 2, he noted the Commission wants to continue advancements in technical knowledge, public policy regarding the built environment, and preparedness, response, and recovery. Commissioner Patwardhan suggested adding another element: establishment of measurable risk reduction goals, a process of performance monitoring, and a method to allocate resources effectively. He added that this statement may help set an accelerated pace for the process of risk reduction.

Commissioner Patwardhan cited water quality standards and fuel efficiency standards as

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examples of measurable goals. In the area of risk reduction, he noted, similar goals could be set for bonds to pay for strengthening residential and commercial buildings; preparedness goals could include citizen participation in educational workshops on self-sufficiency. Commissioner Patwardhan acknowledged that setting measurable goals should be a cooperative process involving a number of agencies, and he encouraged the Commission to include this objective in the vision statement.

Commissioner Snyder said she supported measurable goals, but questioned whether some desired outcomes lent themselves to quantifiable measurement. Chairman Manning discussed his experience in setting measurable goals for fire departments; he noted that certain outcomes are dependent upon outside forces. As an example, he noted reducing fire losses due to fireworks hinges on the cooperation of the public. He recommended focusing on areas within the Commission's control and accountability. Chairman Manning added that the Governor does not want the Seismic Safety Commission dictating priorities for other state agencies.

Commissioner Snyder suggested developing a process for measuring the effectiveness of the critically important initiatives in the *Plan*. Executive Director Richard McCarthy noted the Commission and OES will be sending a tracking document for state agencies to report on the status of all initiatives since 1992. Once that information has been collected, the Commission will be better to able to analyze progress and performance.

Commissioner Patwardhan said he shared Chairman Manning's concerns about identifying goals within the Commission's control. He recommended starting by measuring performance on the critically important initiatives. He added that his subcommittee would be bringing some measurement ideas to the Commission.

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Planning and Budget Committee

Commissioner Gates said the budget continues to reflect a surplus due to unfilled staff vacancies. Expenditures through the first seven months of the fiscal year are in line or below budget levels. Commissioner Gates added that the Commission will probably end the year with a surplus of approximately 10 percent.

Gas Shut-Off Valves

Commissioner Moy reported that the gas shut-off valve task force held an initial planning meeting on February 15. He said he was still in the process of selecting about seven members for the task force and had identified a consultant to help build consensus among the various parties. The estimated budget for the effort is \$50,000, with \$20,000 coming from So Cal Gas, \$20,000 from PG&E, and another \$10,000 in donations.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Web Page

Mr. McCarthy said Commissioner Johnson has been working with San Diego State on revisions to the Commission's Web page and would have more to report at the April meeting.

Seattle Earthquake

Mr. McCarthy said that in response to the recent earthquake in Seattle, the Commission is looking at spending funds from the emergency earthquake investigations account to send a five-member team to visit the earthquake-affected area in late April. He recommended that the

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Commission authorize an expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the investigations account for this purpose. He added that it would be prudent to start the paperwork now because Department of Finance approval is necessary for out-of-state travel.

Mr. McCarthy noted Commissioner Gates would report later on the status of the pending bill to replenish the emergency earthquake investigations account. He said the staff believes it would be best tactically for state agencies to join together to make funding requests for specific programs.

Commissioner Snyder commented that the Seattle earthquake is the first major seismic event in recent years to occur during school hours. She noted the earthquake provides a good opportunity to look at how well the schools were prepared and how they fared. She added that it would be helpful to conduct this investigation before school is recessed for the summer.

Commissioner Snyder said the Seattle earthquake may yield valuable information on the benefits of preparedness. She noted Seattle is a Project Impact city with a strong mitigation program in schools.

Mr. McCarthy said the staff will proceed to submit out-of-state travel requests to the Department of Finance. He noted the next step will be to select possible dates and team members.

ACTION: Commissioner Shapiro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Snyder, that:

The Commission authorize expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the emergency earthquake investigations account to send a post-earthquake team to Seattle in late April.

Commissioner Chang said he understood some other state agencies, such as Caltrans, were able

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to send people to attend meetings in Washington without a lengthy approval process. He suggested that the Commission look at how those agencies expedited the travel authorization process. Mr. McCarthy explained that some agencies' budgets include blanket amounts for pre-identified trips for specific meetings. He pointed out that the Commission would not be able to pre-identify the location of major earthquakes and the costs of sending investigation teams. Mr. McCarthy added that the Commission is pursuing legislation to automatically replenish the account, and he said the staff will work with the Department of Finance to expedite the process.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

FEMA Audit

Mr. McCarthy reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) audit is moving from larger issues to smaller issues, and the process is taking more time than originally anticipated. He noted that the auditor is questioning details such as the rental car companies used by multiple subcontractors hired by the Commission to work on Northridge earthquake report activities. Mr. McCarthy said the staff plans to submit a written explanation to FEMA when the audit report has been completed.

OSHPD/DSA Request

Mr. McCarthy reported that the Commission received a letter from 58 employees of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) regarding their relocation to an improperly retrofitted building in downtown Los Angeles. The employees have also contacted Senator Speier's office on this issue. Mr. McCarthy said the Commission's Planning Committee reviewed the letter and concluded that the employees were requesting the Commission's involvement in reviewing the seismic safety of this building. He

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noted the Commission's policy, as demonstrated in its decision not to get involved in the Sutro Tower retrofit review, is to confine attention to issues of statewide importance. Mr. McCarthy said he concurred with the Planning Committee that the OSHPD/DSA employees' request did not fall within that category.

Mr. McCarthy cautioned the Commission that the staff's legislative workload for this year is already substantial. He noted Mr. Sepulveda would be reporting on 24 bills being followed by the Commission, including 6 related to SB 1953, the Hospital Seismic Safety Act. Other important legislative issues include school preparedness, urban search and rescue, high storage racks, the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. Mr. McCarthy said the Planning Committee recommends that the Commission not get involved in the OSHPD/DSA review process.

Commissioner Shapiro observed that the letter is rather unclear as to what is being requested of the Commission. He suggested asking for clarification before responding further. Commissioner Shapiro said he tended to agree with Mr. McCarthy that the Commission cannot appropriately address an isolated situation like that presented by the Los Angeles building. He added that the Commission is not equipped to make a determination as to whether a particular building meets or does not meet state requirements.

Commissioner Patwardhan expressed his opinion that the issues described in the letter do not relate to general policy concerns, so the Commission should not get involved.

Commissioner Chang suggested referring the employees to DSA's plan-checking division for more specific information; he noted if a problem is identified, it might be appropriate for individuals to make a presentation to the Commission. Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the employees include DSA staff members. He added that the April and May agendas are already

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full, and significant staff time would be required to identify the issues and arrange a presentation.

Commissioner Moy stated his opinion that the appropriate agency to deal with the employees' complaints was the Department of General Services, not the Commission.

Commissioner Shapiro clarified that the building in question is being leased to the state to house about 500 state employees. The lease was arranged, and then the building owner hired a contractor to retrofit the building. The employees are complaining that the retrofit work does not meet state requirements; DSA contends that proper procedures were followed in making the lease arrangements.

Commissioner Gates observed that the Seismic Safety Commission was established to advise the Governor and Legislature on statewide issues pertaining to seismic safety, not to serve as building inspectors and regulators.

ACTION: Commissioner Gates made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mochizuki, that:

The Commission refrain from getting involved in the issues raised by the OSHPD and DSA employees.

Commissioner Snyder suggested sending a response explaining the policy basis for the Commission's decision.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Commission-Sponsored Bills

Director of Legislation Henry Sepulveda referred to his written summary of eight Commission-sponsored pieces of legislation. He said authors have been found for the first seven topics and all those bills have been introduced. He noted the meeting packet complains the complete text for each Commission-sponsored bill.

Mr. Sepulveda reviewed the seven bills. He said AB 184 (Liu), co-sponsored by the Board of Equalization, is a technical clarification of existing law; SB 998 (Alarcon) is the same as last year's SB 1971, calling for a statewide disaster recovery plan; and AB 1118 (Corbett) establishes tax credits and grants for residential retrofits.

Mr. Sepulveda noted SB 717 (Speier), would provide issuance of \$600 million in general obligation bonds, including \$300 million for residential retrofits and \$300 million for retrofit of local government buildings. He added that SB 717 carries on the program initiated under Proposition 122 in 1990, which provided funds to retrofit state buildings.

Commissioner Mochizuki drew attention to Page 10 of SB 717, Lines 19 through 28, addressing eligibility requirements. He recommended amending the section by referencing the specific emergency response plans used as the basis for consistency.

Mr. Sepulveda added that SB 717 contains some additional provisions for funding to support specific Seismic Safety Commission programs.

Mr. Sepulveda noted AB 977 (Alquist) establishes a process for restoring an annual balance of \$100,000 to the Commission's emergency investigations account. He noted the Legislative Advisory Committee suggested adding a provision to expedite out-of-state Commission travel.

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Mr. Sepulveda said AB 724 (Corbett) is a spot bill asking schools to examine their preparedness and earthquake planning. Previous bills covered emergency drills, supplies, and training, but without a mechanism to ensure compliance or a penalty for lack of compliance. The purpose of AB 724 would be to encourage consistent compliance on a statewide basis.

Mr. Sepulveda said SB 629 (Alarcon), is a spot bill dealing with warehouse storage racks, one of the subjects of the April meeting. SB 629 would require Cal OSHA to provide reports and recommendations. Mr. Sepulveda noted the Commission can add provisions and refine the bill after hearing the testimony at the April meeting.

Commissioner Patwardhan asked about the timeframe for submitting suggested amendments.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that committee hearings would probably occur from late March to mid-April. During the interim, the staff can work with committee members and present proposed amendments at the hearings.

Commissioner Chang asked if there was any opposition to SB 629, regarding storage racks. Mr. Sepulveda responded that he was not aware of any opposition to date.

Mr. Sepulveda requested that the Commission approve sponsorship of the seven bills, as proposed by the staff.

ACTION: Commissioner Shapiro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chang, that:

The Commission approve sponsorship of the legislation as proposed.

Commissioner Gates commended Mr. Sepulveda and Ms. Browning for their hard work in

finding authors for the Commission-sponsored legislation.

Commissioner Gates noted the Commission has two years to work on these bills, until September of 2002, and amendments can be made up to the point of adoption.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0.

Other Bills

Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to his Exhibit 2, a description of other bills being watched by the Commission staff. He noted the report divides the bills into major subject areas.

He observed that there are numerous bills on SB 1953, the Hospital Seismic Safety Act, and its requirements. He added that the staff learned recently that Senator Dunn is sponsoring another bill to provide tax credits for hospitals that comply with SB 1953.

Mr. Sepulveda noted that warehouse storage rack safety is attracting more legislative attention. Senator Speier, who introduced a bill sponsored by the Firefighters Union, has expressed interest in having a representative attend the Commission's April meeting on this topic.

Mr. Sepulveda said SB 384 (Burton) is a measure that would require gas shutoff valves for new construction, transfer of ownership, and extensive remodels. He noted an excess flow valve association is sponsoring SB 384. Mr. Sepulveda said the proponents are interested in working with the Commission's task force on this issue.

Mr. Sepulveda noted other legislation deals with the California Earthquake authority, the Field Act, design-build construction, and other areas pertaining to seismic safety. He said the staff

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plans to follow all bills and bring recommended positions to the Commission at the April meeting.

Commissioner Snyder asked if there were reports of gas line breakages in Seattle. Commissioner Shapiro said he heard there were few line breakages, and most occurred in areas with poor soil.

Chairman Manning pointed out that the epicenter was 30 miles deep, so the distance lessened damage to structures at ground level.

VII. TRINET - INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA'S INTEGRATED SEISMIC NETWORK

Dr. Egill Hauksson, California Institute of Technology, welcomed the Commission to Caltech. He said he would provide an overview of the TriNet system, Dr. Jones would discuss the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS), and Dr. Davis would describe California's new integrated seismic mapping project with the statewide expansion of TriNet.

Dr. Hauksson explained that TriNet is a collaboration between the U.S. Geological Service (USGS), the California Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP), and the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG). The TriNet program provide is a network of ground motion instruments, data collection and processing equipment, and communication systems, primarily in southern California, that provide fast, reliable, and useful information. Dr. Hauksson noted the eventual goal of TriNet is 600 new strong motion instruments throughout California to provide at least one instrument per zip code.

Dr. Hauksson said TriNet's total funding is about \$20 million, including \$12.5 million from FEMA's Northridge earthquake hazard mitigation program, \$4.1 from Caltech, and \$4 million

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from USGS. However, additional funding is needed to expand the program statewide.

Dr. Hauksson described TriNet's computer systems and ground motion sensor sites. He said that in order to ensure functionality after a major earthquake, TriNet has diversified types of communications systems and records data at more than one location. TriNet's outreach activities include a Web site, shake maps, and workshops to assist users. Dr. Hauksson showed shake maps of the Northridge and Hector Mine areas showing locations of strong ground motion and likely damage.

Dr. Hauksson said TriNet also provides some warning capability; based on strong ground motions in one area, motions along faults to other areas can be anticipated, allowing a warning time of between 15 to 50 seconds to take mitigating actions.

Dr. Hauksson added that TriNet has successfully applied new technology to produce new products such as rapid damage assessment software, policies to expedite information exchange, and statewide and national networks.

Dr. Lucy Jones, U.S. Geological Service, described USGS' involvement in a project to establish a national seismic network. She noted Congress authorized creation of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) and provided \$2 million in initial funding last year. TriNet, California's network, will be part of the ANSS effort to carry these capabilities nationwide.

Dr. Jones explained that in addition to being a scientific tool to enhance knowledge of earthquakes, TriNet serves as an emergency response tool and a loss reduction tool. Although older instruments can register an earthquake's epicenter and magnitude, that information alone is not a useful tool in predicting areas of damage and response. However, knowing the types of ground shaking expected in certain locations and soils gives people a better projection of damage

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locations and response needs. Dr. Jones said the shaking maps done after the Northridge earthquake took hours, but the Hector Mine maps were available within minutes due to improved technology.

Dr. Jones reported that USGS named the recent earthquake near Seattle the “Nasquali earthquake,” after a location in the Puget Sound. She said the earthquake occurred closer to Olympia than Seattle. Dr. Jones explained that the Pacific Northwest is prone to major earthquakes because of the subduction zone where the Pacific plate meets the mainland. She said the Nasquali earthquake was extraordinarily deep under Puget Sound.

Dr. Jones stated that all cases of damage in the Nasquali earthquake were located in areas of artificial fill, and there was little significant damage in Seattle. She noted much of the damage was due to landslides, liquefaction, and ground failure.

Dr. Jones added that USGS collected over 1,100 responses to the intensity questionnaire posted on the Internet.

Dr. Jones reported that the ANSS network came into play with the Nasquali earthquake as 20 instrument locations in the Pacific Northwest reported information. She said ANSS plans call for over 6,000 stations across the country, over half of them in California, if the full \$70 million funding for ANSS is approved. Dr. Jones noted that the national program encourages local self-organization. She added that TriNet will become part of the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN), the focus of Dr. Davis’ presentation.

Dr. James Davis, State Geologist, California Division of Mines & Geology, commented that the federal program is using TriNet as a model for other states.

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Dr. Davis provided a draft implementation plan and reviewed the history, organization, goals, and status of the CISN. He explained that the purpose of CISN is to implement a real-time statewide earthquake monitoring and information system. Dr. Davis noted additional funding is needed to expand and refine the network, and both federal and state funding sources are being pursued. He said the CISN project got underway in 1995 as a collaboration between USGS, CDMG, Caltech, and U.C. Berkeley, and it builds upon TriNet, the prototype collaborative effort in southern California.

Dr. Davis noted an overall statewide monitoring system would be a seamless way of producing short-term shake maps showing spatial variations in ground shaking on a regional scale for all areas of the state. He said Mr. McCarthy and the Commission encouraged the proponents to develop a legislative proposal in collaboration with other agencies; that omnibus legislation for real-time statewide monitoring involved both PEER and SCEC as well as the other collaborators. OES assisted in obtaining state funds. The participants worked out agreements among themselves, and real-time capability is now being enhanced through state funding.

Dr. Davis reviewed some of the benefits of the CISN. He said the program allows statewide real-time recording employing standardized methodologies; statewide seamless shake maps posted on the Internet; more robust shake maps; increased density of instrumentation, particularly in urban areas; a coordinated means of transferring data; coordinated archiving of data; and tools for estimating the dollar value of earthquake damage. Dr. Davis noted redundancies are being built into the system to ensure multiple accurate readings from a variety of sensors.

Dr. Davis discussed the CISN's state and federal funding sources. He noted approximately \$6 million in state funding comes from building permit fees, contract work for OSHPD, and instrumentation of dams for the Department of Water Resources and structures for Caltrans. Additional funding comes from other agencies and user groups. Dr. Davis commended the CISN

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participants for their cooperation and interest in working together.

Chairman Manning thanked the presenters and invited questions and comments from presenters.

On behalf of the Strong Motion Instrumentation Advisory Committee, Commissioner Patwardhan requested copies of some of slides from the presentations. He said he would speak with the presenters individually later.

Commissioner Patwardhan asked what portion of funding is applied to technology, outreach, increasing users, and other programs. Dr. Jones responded that most of the budget goes to software development and station deployment. Dr. Hauksson added that outreach is about 15 percent of the budget. Dr. Jones commented that the Internet has changed the program's ability to communicate; she said efforts are underway to expand email information dissemination.

Commissioner Chang observed that recent earthquakes seem to suggest that worldwide tectonic motion occurs in a chain reaction, and he cited the earthquakes in Taiwan, India, and Turkey as examples. He asked if USGS is investigating other areas that might benefit from seismic networks. Dr. Jones responded that Taiwan has an advanced network that performed well in the earthquake; New Zealand and Canada also have instrumentation programs. She added that the U.S. is actually behind the curve, not leading the world on this issue. She said the U.S. has the technology, but has not implemented a national program.

Dr. Jones offered to discuss the possibility of chain reactions and worldwide triggers with Commissioner Chang during lunch.

Chairman Manning thanked Dr. Jones, Dr. Hauksson, and Dr. Davis for their presentations.

VIII. EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

Chairman Manning invited Ms. T. D. Price and Ms. Ann Tanouye, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), Southern Region, to introduce the presentations.

Ms. Price, Emergency Services Coordinator for Schools, OES, said OES takes school preparedness very seriously because of the high risk of harm to California students from earthquakes, floods, and school shootings. She said OES assists schools with preparing emergency plans, training staff members, and developing good policies. She displayed a poster created by OES to illustrate laws pertaining to disasters and schools and offered to provide the Commission with copies of the school resources developed by OES.

Ms. Price said that based on its experience over the years, OES has identified key attributes of successful school programs: executive support, dedicated staff and resources, clear plans and procedures, regular training exercises and drills, and recovery plans. She added that OES will continue to provide schools with support and guidance.

Commissioner Snyder commented that there has been an erosion of school preparedness efforts since the 1980's when BAREPP and SCEPP were active. She welcomed suggestions for making earthquake preparedness a higher priority for schools throughout the state. Ms. Tanouye, Program Manager, said OES lacks the authority to set priorities for schools. Commissioner Snyder pointed out that schools comply with fire drill requirements, but not earthquake drills. Ms. Tanouye explained that fire drills are mandated through fire codes; OES lacks the authority to require or monitor earthquake drills. She said OES provides outreach to school sites to encourage them to develop better plans. OES emphasizes the importance of preparing for disasters ahead of time and disseminates information to assist schools.

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Commissioner Shapiro commented that the chart showing applicable laws may seem intimidating to school officials, and he suggested a simpler depiction. Ms. Tanouye noted the chart was recently updated and put in a booklet format. The booklet will be an easy-to-use guide.

Commissioner Mochizuki suggested modifying the existing SEMS law to make earthquake and recovery drills mandatory.

Chairman Manning asked if OES has information on the level of compliance in individual schools and districts throughout the state. He noted compliance would include earthquake drills and emergency plans. Ms. Tanouye responded that OES does not track compliance information. Through working in different operational areas, she added, OES is aware that some schools are better prepared than others.

Ms. Andrea Terry, La Cañada Parent Teacher's Association Council Safety Chair and La Cañada High School PTSA Safety and Disaster Preparedness Chair, said her presentation was based on feedback from other parent-teacher associations, particularly those in Glendale and Burbank. She identified a number of issues relating to school preparedness, including inconsistencies in maintaining adequate disaster supplies, conducting drills, training staff, and developing emergency plans. She noted parents tend to assume that public agencies will step in to provide extra assistance in a disaster, but schools need to prepare for situations in which that aid may not be available. Ms. Terry advocated imposing minimum disaster preparedness standards on schools.

Chairman Manning asked how whether schools are prepared to provide emergency sanitation facilities. Ms. Terry responded that some schools are in better condition than others. She said elementary schools are generally in excellent condition for sanitation.

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Chairman Manning expressed concern about storing supplies on top of tall cabinets in classrooms. He noted these objects could become flying hazards in earthquakes. Ms. Terry said her local school district allocated about \$85,000 last summer to strap and secure furniture and computers in schools. However, when teachers came back to the classrooms in the fall, some of these items were unstrapped and moved. Ms. Terry added that keeping nonstructural objects secured is an ongoing project that someone needs to monitor.

Commissioner Snyder asked about the status of preparedness in inner-city schools. Ms. Terry said she has friends who work in poor districts where there are no PTA organizations, and some of them have done nothing to prepare for disasters. Commissioner Snyder pointed out that the level of preparedness tends to be less in schools where parental involvement is low. Ms. Terry added that the level of preparedness vary considerably from school site to school site and from administrator to administrator.

Chairman Manning commented that the testimony seems to indicate a need for state standards for emergency equipment and inspections. Ms. Terry agreed. She said that without a mandate, things are likely to continue as they area.

Ms. Janna Kelly, Director of Risk Management, Montebello School District, reported on her school's efforts in disaster recovery planning. She said she agreed with the previous speakers that the state is not spending enough to protect its children from disasters. Ms. Kelly noted that Montebello School District has had a disaster recovery plan for years, and the SEMS system was included in 1993, but there is little follow-through to monitor implementation by individual schools.

Ms. Kelly said the Montebello School District's disaster recovery plan objectives include

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minimizing injuries and loss of life, providing for the well-being of students until they are released to their parents and guardians, making staff and facilities available for local emergency response agencies, and maintaining clear lines of communication between schools, district administration, and local agencies. She noted participation in the SEMS network gives the school district a means of communication and a source of additional funds. The SEMS manual provides employees with guidelines and checklists for functioning efficiently in different types of disasters. Ms. Kelly added that teachers play an important role in supervising students, providing emergency instructions, and ensuring orderly evacuations.

Ms. Kelly provided copies of Montebello's school site safety checklist, covering supplies, equipment, training, and drills. Schools that complete all items on the list receive an incentive award of \$1,000 from the district. Schools that fail to comply are reported to the superintendent for follow-up. Ms. Kelly said about 85 percent of the schools within the district complied last year.

Ms. Kelly distributed samples of a safety newsletter developed by one school principal to communicate with parents. The letter came with a request for parents to create an emergency supply kit in a Ziploc bag for each student. Individual Ziploc kits and emergency cards are then stored in wheeled trash cans so they are easily accessible in emergencies.

Ms. Kelly commented that the EOC developed a helpful document called "The ABC's of Post-Earthquake Evacuation" that was distributed to all site administrators. She noted one administrator copied the document for all the teachers at that site. Ms. Kelley said the district also used the SEMS document to create a flipchart giving easy instructions for various disasters.

Ms. Kelly noted Montebello School District relies on school principals to implement response procedures in emergencies. The district provides in-service safety training, disaster drills, and

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equipment. In addition, all district employees received a blood work pathogen kit so they can protect themselves from exposure to infection and contamination.

Ms. Kelly said orderly evacuation and procedures for releasing students to parents are an important issue in responding to disasters, and she welcomed suggestions and assistance from the Commission. She said each school in the Montebello School District has two bullhorns for crowd control, and children know what to do, but parents are always most interested in getting to their children quickly.

Dr. Jones, USGS, said she was aware of one school campus that developed a procedure to allow parents inside the school to wait with their children to be released. She added that sharing information with parents also helps ease their fears.

Commissioner Chang noted the Taiwan earthquake underscored the need for earthquake education so students know how to behave. He suggested that Caltech, USGS, and OES consider developing an educational program for California schools. He also recommended contacting the Department of Insurance about their "Quake Ready" video program.

Chairman Manning thanked Ms. Kelly for her presentation and congratulated the Montebello School District for its model programs.

Mr. Pete Anderson, Los Angeles Unified School District, said the district encourages each of its 700 schools to prepare for self-sufficiency in disasters. The district provides staff training, presentations from local emergency response agencies, two district-wide disaster drills each school year, and the SEMS disaster management system. Mr. Anderson said each school maintains supplies of food and water, first aid supplies, and search and rescue equipment. Mr. Anderson noted this formula has worked well in recent disasters, and spot-checks confirm that

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most schools are complying. He added that the L.A. Unified was recognized by FEMA for its exemplary programs.

Chairman Manning asked Mr. Anderson what improvements he would like to see. Mr. Anderson responded that additional funding for monitoring would help. He suggested that the state Board of Education develop and mandate curriculum to educate students on preparedness and recovery.

Chairman Manning asked about reporting systems to ensure school accountability. Mr. Anderson responded that L.A. Unified requires schools to inspect all facilities and submit monthly reports on hazard mitigation. Administrators also report on fire drills, earthquake drills, and staff training. Mr. Anderson noted the district submits an annual safe school plan and checklist to the Department of Education, and that document requires participation from teachers, administrators, district staff, and local emergency response agencies.

Commissioner Snyder asked how many students attend schools in the L.A. Unified School District. Mr. Anderson answered that the district, with about 750,000 students, is the second-largest school district in the U.S.

Commissioner Shapiro noted the district's plans indicate the district supplies emergency water; he asked who supplies food and other provisions. Mr. Anderson explained that school cafeteria managers maintain a three-day supply of food and water on-site. The district provides water barrels, instructions on how to treat water, cargo containers, and search and rescue kits.

Chairman Manning thanked Mr. Anderson for his presentation.

Ms. Terese Condon, City of Torrance Office of Emergency Management, explained that she works with city departments and local schools, both public and private, to coordinate planning,

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preparedness, and emergency response efforts. Ms. Condon noted the City of Torrance is especially concerned about avoiding incidents involving hazardous materials.

Ms. Condon said the PTA plays an important role on Torrance's planning team, and the city has established a special Schools Disaster Council to focus specifically on school-related issues. Individual schools are required to submit disaster plans each year, which are reviewed and discussed with City of Torrance officials. Based on these disaster plans, customized action plans are developed for each school site. Ms. Condon noted the City of Torrance, with local law enforcement agencies and school districts, sponsors training, exercises, and drills. Local schools participate in the SEMS system, and PTA volunteers also receive SEMS training and are assigned as disaster volunteers at individual schools. Ms. Condon noted the City of Torrance has initiated an active volunteer recruitment program for parents, neighborhoods, and businesses in the community. Local ham radio operators are included in the drills and communication exercises.

Ms. Condon said the local PTA is responsible for procuring and maintaining earthquake supplies at the schools. She noted funding comes from the school district, outside organizations, and the PTA. Supplies are maintained both inside and outside classrooms, and staff and parents receive training in the shelter-in-place concept. Ms. Condon said Torrance works with the schools to obtain out-of-state contact people for each student so relatives and friends can be contacted when parents are unable to respond. School personnel are also trained in post-disaster counseling techniques. Ms. Condon described other school programs involving local police forces, fire departments, and foreign language interpreters. She added that schools understand they need to be self-sufficient and work with local government agencies to coordinate response efforts. She noted school districts often find it difficult to release teachers for emergency training.

Ms. Condon provides summaries of Torrance's programs, disaster newsletter, and volunteer

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handbook.

Chairman Manning thanked Ms. Condon for her presentation and commended the City of Torrance for its innovative programs.

IX. URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

Chief Peter Hills, San Bernardino County Fire Department, thanked Chairman Manning for his recent visit to the San Bernardino County training facility. He expressed his appreciation to the Commission for providing this opportunity to address urban search and rescue (USAR) issues. Chief Hills stated that California's search and rescue capabilities are severely underfunded, especially at the local level, and even the federal programs rely on local subsidies. He noted California currently has eight USAR teams. He said the number of qualified search and rescue teams in the entire U.S. would not be sufficient to address the needs that could be created by a major earthquake.

Chief Hills urged the Seismic Safety Commission to continue emphasizing the USAR initiatives in the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. He advocated expanding funds for USAR equipment, training, and preparedness at the local level.

Chairman Manning commented that timely response to a disaster is critical for USAR teams. Chief Hills pointed out that as time passes, hopes for a successful rescue outcome diminish. Therefore, USAR teams need to arrive within 24 to 48 hours of a disaster.

Commissioner Patwardhan observed that USAR teams also need access to rescue equipment. He suggested looking to the private sector to supplement the resources available from public response agencies. Chief Hills noted that most agencies have identified pieces of specialized

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equipment such as ladders and cranes, and many have contracted in advance so they have access to these items in emergencies.

Assistant Chief Dean Cathey, Los Angeles Fire Department, explained that his responsibilities include management and oversight of Los Angeles' USAR program. He said the program features three levels of resources: the L.A. Fire Department's own equipment and trained personnel; the eight USAR task forces in California managed by OES; and FEMA's 28 national task forces. He said each task force is comprised of 62-member teams with basic operational capabilities, ranging from high-tech searches to rescues in heavy construction environments. Team members are trained in first aid and command procedures. Chief Cathey said the teams are outfitted with standard sets of equipment stored in various caches throughout the state.

Chief Cathey said the eight California task forces consist of the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Menlo Park Fire Department, Oakland, Orange County, Riverside, Sacramento, and San Diego. He noted California has two of four specialized fire rescue programs in the U.S.

Chief Cathey said USAR teams originated in the 1980's in response to hurricanes along the East Coast. He noted speedy response is one of the key issues facing USAR teams and other disaster responders. He explained that within two hours after a disaster, FEMA decides whether to send USAR teams, and the teams are contacted and dispatched within the next six hours. Chief Cathey said USAR efforts are funded primarily by FEMA, with additional support from local agencies. He agreed with Chief Hills that USAR programs are seriously underfunded.

Chief Cathey noted the U.S. State Department, through its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, provides USAR resources to other countries in response to major disasters, an effort which involves three of the 28 national task forces, including one in California.

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Commissioner Snyder observed that northern California needs more USAR resources, judging from the map showing the distribution of USAR teams. She asked how USAR teams become qualified for international service. Chief Cathey responded that the qualifications are unclear. He said the two Florida teams were accessed several years ago and gained considerable international experience. He noted those teams have provided international USAR training and have conducted independent rescue operations as well.

Commissioner Snyder asked how the Seismic Safety Commission can assist in expanding the USAR program. Chief Cathey urged the Commission to work with the Legislature to create sister-city and sister-state relationships with Canada, Mexico, and other Central American countries to promote training and interaction. At the national level, he suggested working with Congress to obtain more resources to develop and support West Coast teams.

Commissioner Chang asked about the prospects for more FEMA funding. Chief Cathey explained that California USAR teams receive FEMA support for program management and deployment coordination, but not for equipment. FEMA also has some grants, but California programs are not budgeted through FEMA. Commissioner Chang noted the Governor's yearly budget includes an emergency reserve, and he suggested investigating the possibility of using some of the emergency reserve funds to support USAR. Chief Cathey welcomed the Commission's assistance in working with the Legislature to tap into those reserve funds.

Mr. McCarthy spoke in support of expanding international USAR capabilities. He proposed approaching FEMA with a funding request based on a 25 percent state match, possibly in terms of equipment. Chief Cathey recommended ongoing funding for equipment and training. He noted local agencies have a difficult time paying for training time.

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Commissioner Chang asked if USAR task forces receive FEMA reimbursement for their rescue operations. Chief Cathey explained that FEMA pays only for federally declared disasters; state efforts are financed by the state task forces. He noted that international USAR teams typically leave \$1.5 million worth of cached equipment in the affected country, and then the equipment is restocked through the State Department.

Mr. McCarthy asked if it would be worthwhile for the state to provide vehicles as a way of making a funding match. Chief Cathey said USAR vehicles are either very general-purpose or very specialized, and it might make more sense to leave that capability to the local agencies rather than the statewide task forces. He added that various USAR working groups are looking at logistics, operational issues, equipments, and weapons of mass destruction.

Chairman Manning thanked Chief Hills and Chief Cathey for their presentations.

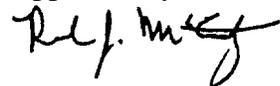
X. GOOD OF THE MEETING

There were no items brought to the Commission's attention.

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved by:



Richard McCarthy

Executive Director