

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
May 9, 2002
Sonora Days Inn
160 South Washington Street
Sonora, California

Members Participating

Bruce R. Clark, Chairman
Stan Y. Moy, Vice Chair
Mark Church
William L. Gates
Lawrence T. Klein
Linden Nishinaga
Daniel Shapiro

Members Absent

Andrew Adelman
Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Douglas E. Mochizuki
Ashok S. Patwardhan

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy
Karen Cogan
Robert Anderson
Abby Browning
Henry Reyes
Henry Sepulveda
Fred Turner
Vince Vibat

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was called to order by Chairman Bruce Clark at 9:00 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the quorum.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Clark reported representing the Commission at the SMIP '02 conference in Los Angeles the previous week. He said the Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP) is making good progress, and the new consortium-generated shake maps will be helpful. He explained the shake maps show the distribution and size of ground-shaking intensities. Chairman Clark noted money has been allocated to improve the shake maps for northern California, an area hampered by a lack of strong motion instruments. He added that this summer ATC will be publishing a user's guide for emergency planning, response, and post-earthquake planning.

Chairman Clark proposed sending a letter of support to Congress for the Earthscope program, an effort by the National Science Foundation to improve earth-monitoring instrumentation. He noted the program is likely to have benefits for seismic safety.

ACTION: Commissioner Moy made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Klein, that:

The Commission send a letter of support for the Earthscope program, as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 14, 2002 MEETING MINUTES

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

The Commission approve the minutes of the March 14 meeting as presented.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

IV. WELCOME TO SONORA

Mr. Jerard Fuccilo, City Engineer, City of Sonora, welcomed the Commission to Sonora. He noted Sonora has a number of old masonry buildings, many of them historic. He said that in his 32 years in Sonora, he has never seen earthquake damage, although some earthquakes have been felt in the area. Mr. Fuccilo added that Sonora lies within Seismic Zone 3. He expressed concern that the new 2000 code would put Sonora in Seismic Zone 4; he recommended reassigning a Zone 2A or 2B classification instead.

Mr. Fuccilo noted he would be leading the Commission on a tour of the Sonora Historic Opera House, a building that was restored in 1993. He provided brochures about the Opera House and said he looked forward to meeting the Commission again after the meeting.

City Councilman David Sheppard agreed with Mr. Fuccilo's recommendation about reclassifying Sonora as a lower-seismicity area. He showed a map illustrating the differences in seismicity between Tuolumne County and Mono Lake, for example. He expressed his opinion imposing Zone 3 detailing requirements on the Sonora area is excessive.

Mr. Sheppard noted the concept of a national seismic code was an outgrowth of an earlier ATC-3 study. He said most local jurisdictions are using the 1997 Uniform Building Code, although the state uses the 1994 version. In addition, the Structural Engineer's Blue Book provides commentary and information on lateral force requirements. Mr. Sheppard noted the national code and the proposed 2000 International Building Code are different.

Commissioner Klein same this issue came up with the rebuilding of the old Moccasin power house. He expressed support for Mr. Sheppard's position.

Commissioner Shapiro noted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s 310 document that might be helpful in dealing with retrofitting existing buildings with thick stone masonry walls.

Chairman Clark thanked Mr. Fuccilo and Councilman Sheppard for their remarks.

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V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan Update

Executive Director Richard McCarthy reported the *Plan* was distributed to about 400 people at the Office of Emergency Services (OES) conference in the City of Industry for emergency managers, and the document was well received.

Mr. McCarthy said he would be meeting with FEMA Region 9 representatives in late May or early June, and he asked for commissioners to accompany him. He noted the meeting, to be held at the Presidio in San Francisco, provides an opportunity for the Commission to present the *Plan* and provide an update on related activities. Mr. McCarthy asked interested commissioners to contact him for more details.

Co-Sponsorship of EERI Quake '06 Campaign

Mr. McCarthy noted the meeting packet contains information on the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)'s request that the Commission co-sponsor its "Quake '06 Campaign" to reduce earthquake risks by the 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Mr. McCarthy clarified EERI is not requesting funding, but only Commission participation on one or more of the task committees.

Chairman Clark said he contacted EERI for more information on the program. He suggested the Commission consider taking action to support the campaign at the June meeting.

Commissioner Shapiro urged the Commission to take an active support role in the campaign rather than providing tacit support. He noted it would be helpful for the Commission to provide input as to the types of activities undertaken as part of the campaign.

Commissioners agreed to defer a decision on the co-sponsorship request to the June meeting.

Letter of Support for BART Retrofit Program

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the request from Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) for a letter of support from the Commission for the concept of retrofitting the BART system. He noted there is a legislative proposal that would exempt BART from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but BART is not requesting the Commission's support on that legislation. Mr. McCarthy added it is not up to the Commission to determine CEQA exemptions anyway. He recommended sending a letter of support, and noted a draft letter was provided in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Shapiro commented that the peer review process has been very helpful to BART in identifying priorities and determining appropriate retrofit measures. He expressed his appreciation to BART for the desire to improve public safety, and he recommended supporting

their retrofit program.

ACTION: Commissioner Moy made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Klein, that:

The Commission send a letter of support for the BART retrofit program as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

June Meeting

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission's June meeting will be held on June 13 in San Diego in conjunction with a tour of the shake table and research facilities at the University of California at San Diego. Meeting presentations will focus on the use of applied research, and the Commission will be discussing revisions to the Research Implementation Plan. Mr. McCarthy welcomed suggestions from commissioners as to agenda topics and possible speakers.

Executive Assistant Karen Cogan encouraged commissioners to make their San Diego hotel reservations as soon as possible.

FEMA Audit Appeal Status

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission appealed the Region 9 audit decision to FEMA's Washington, D.C., headquarters nine or ten months ago. He said the key issues involved use of commissioner time as part of the required match and costs for publishing reports on the Northridge earthquake. He said a response will come back through OES, and he promised to keep the Commission posted.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Planning

Commissioner Gates reported the Commission's budget shows a small surplus as of April 30, 2002, much of which could be taken due to cuts in the state budget. He said the Commission has sufficient funds to last until the end of the fiscal year, depending on future state budget developments.

Commissioner Gates noted there are funds remaining in certain line items, such as temporary help and overtime, printing, out-of-state travel, and external contracts. He said these small surpluses will help make up for any deficits in other line items at year-end.

VII. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Appointment of AB 16 Advisory Committee Members

Director of Legislation Henry Sepulveda drew attention to the AB 16 excerpts provided in the

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meeting packet. He said AB 16 was the education bond bill approving issuance of \$25 billion in bonds for K-12, post-secondary schools, and community colleges. The bill contains a provision that calls for the Seismic Safety Commission to conduct a feasibility report to determine how private buildings can be made safe for use as school classrooms. Mr. Sepulveda noted the Field Act sets higher requirements for school buildings than other buildings. However, some school districts, especially those in dense urban areas like Los Angeles, have been unable to acquire enough vacant land on which to build new schools, so existing commercial buildings are being considered as one way of keeping up with demand for classroom space.

Mr. Sepulveda said AB 16 calls for the Seismic Safety Committee to establish an advisory committee to look at how to set up a process through the Division of the State Architect (DSA) so that those buildings might, if possible, be made safe enough to be able to be used as classrooms. He noted the law sets August 19 as the deadline for setting up the advisory committee, whose work is to be completed by year-end. Recommendations from the Seismic Safety Commission, based on the advisory committee's work, are due January 8, 2003. Mr. Sepulveda pointed out the process needs to get started soon, even though the bond bill will not be voted on until the November ballot.

Mr. Sepulveda said that when the Commission learned the new provision had been inserted in AB 16, the staff notified the Department of Finance about the projected fiscal impact. He noted the work needs to be done between August and December, and the deadline for submitting budget change proposals (BCPs) was several months ago. In response, the Department of Finance encouraged the Commission to submit a BCP for the May budget revise. Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to the cover letter to the Department of Finance in the meeting packet. He noted the back page shows the projected budget for implementing the AB 16 provisions, estimated at \$95,000.

Mr. Sepulveda said the Department of Finance indicated they would approve reimbursement of \$100,000 from the proceeds of the education bond bill, once approved in November. Under that time frame, reimbursement funds would probably not come to the Commission until early in 2003. Mr. Sepulveda noted the Commission's challenge would be to absorb the costs of AB 16 implementation during that interim period without impairing other Commission operations. He said he asked the Department of Finance what would happen if the bond bill fails on the November ballot, and he was informed the charges would be placed in a deficiency bill appropriation, which would likely be approved in May or June of 2003.

Mr. Sepulveda noted the meeting packet materials show a proposed timeline, scope of work, staffing requirements, and potential task force members.

Mr. McCarthy said he believed the Commission could comply with AB 16, provided the Commission prioritizes the work and focuses staff resources almost solely on this activity until early January, and provided there are no further budget cuts. He noted staff also needs to complete the progress report on the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* and conduct the biennial unreinforced masonry (URM) inventory. Because revising the research plan will entail some travel costs for the committee, he recommended deferring that task until next January.

Commissioner Klein questioned the timeframe for the advisory committee's feasibility study, given the timing of the bond issue. Mr. Sepulveda said the Commission was not consulted when that provision was added. He added the State Consumer Services Agency convened a task force last February that issued a report to the Governor expressing the opinion it was feasible to convert existing buildings for schools. Because the Governor had concerns about the objectivity of the report, the bill designated the Seismic Safety Commission and the advisory committee to make that determination.

Commissioner Shapiro said most of the AB 16 bond funds are to be used for construction of school facilities. He noted the public has a strong interest in getting schools and classroom space.

Commissioner Moy asked if there was any possibility of getting a \$100,000 augmentation rather than a reimbursement. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the Department of Finance has proposed the \$100,000 reimbursement as an alternative. He said the only other possibility would be to pursue a bill for an appropriation before June 30, but both the Legislature and Governor would have to take action before that date.

Mr. McCarthy added that it is likely this year's state budget will not be signed until August or September. He noted that during the period between July 1 and then the Commission could still hold meetings but might have the authority to pay bills.

Commissioner Church asked about Commission representation on the AB 16 advisory committee. Mr. Sepulveda clarified four commissioners would serve on the committee, as well as outside advisors. In addition, he noted, the committee's recommendations would come back to the Seismic Safety Commission, with the Commission ultimately reporting to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Church expressed his opinion the bond bill is unlikely to pass. Mr. Sepulveda said the bond issue will be presented in three parts: \$12 billion on the November 2002 ballot, another \$13 billion in the spring of 2004, and, if those fail, a back-up \$13 billion in the fall of 2004.

Commissioner Klein asked what ongoing Commission tasks are mandated. Mr. McCarthy responded that the URM inventory is mandated. He noted the law also dictates updating the Research Plan, but there is no specific deadline for that work.

Commissioner Church asked if the Commission could reject the AB 16 advisory committee task. Mr. McCarthy responded that the Commission could indicate it lacks the resources to do the work. He added he was confident the staff could do the work provided the Commission focused all its resources on the project but was adamant the Commission should not incur a fiscal deficit in the process. Mr. McCarthy proposed starting the task frugally and monitoring the process closely. He said he expected to have better estimates of the time and costs involved once the advisory committee deliberations are underway.

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Commissioners recommended getting a written response from the Department of Financing regarding their funding commitments. Mr. Sepulveda said the staff will also pursue the possibility of an appropriation in the near future.

Commissioner Gates commented that the AB 16 advisory committee constitutes an unfunded mandate, and the Department of Finance has not provided any help. He noted the bond bill, even if it passes, may delay funding for a year or two if the bonds are not sold right away. He also pointed out that besides the URM mandate, the Commission has other important mandates, such as advising the Governor, Legislature, and members of the public regarding seismic safety. Commissioner Gates observed that the Commission will not be able to fund its ongoing work if all resources are paying for the AB 16 committee.

In terms of the political realities, Commissioner Gates stated the Democrats in the Legislature lack sufficient votes to pass the budget, and the Republicans are intent on delaying approval as long as possible to embarrass Governor Davis in this election year. He noted the delay will force commissioners and committee members who attend meetings to pay their own expenses for a number of months before being reimbursed.

Commissioner Gates expressed his opinion that fulfilling AB 16 would put the Commission in a fiscally irresponsible spot. He noted that by the time a deficiency bill provides last-resort reimbursement, the Commission will have incurred \$100,000 in costs, and other Commission work will suffer. Commissioner Gates said that if the Legislature and Department of Finance want the Seismic Safety Commission to do this work, funding should be provided.

Commissioner Gates clarified he supported use of the Seismic Safety Commission and the proposed advisory committee to provide an objective assessment, and he encouraged the Commission to take an active role in that effort. However, he noted, doing the task the way the Department of Finance proposes would not be fiscally responsible. Commissioner Gates proposed not spending money for this task and instead requesting funds from the Department of Finance. He added Finance is unlikely to make assurances in writing regarding exemption from future budget cuts.

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

The Commission prohibit the expenditure of any Seismic Safety Commission funds for AB 16 advisory committee investigations until the Seismic Safety Commission general fund is augmented by \$100,000 to provide for such expenditures.

Mr. Sepulveda suggested making the motion flexible enough to include funding sources other than the general fund. He noted the Department of General Services or DSA may have access to other funds.

Mr. Sepulveda added that as part of his previous position with the Treasurer's Office, he was responsible for managing general obligation bonds and bond sales. He clarified the Treasurer's

Office has access to a short-term bond program involving daily sales of commercial paper, and the Treasurer typically sells the debt for short-term paper that is repaid when the bonds are sold in the next year or so.

Commissioner Gates pointed out the sale of bonds presumes the bond measure passes, and no bond of this magnitude has ever passed. He noted the state is facing a \$22 billion deficit, asking voters to approve another \$13 billion on the November ballot. In addition, that ballot will contain a \$2 billion housing bond, plus regional bonds to upgrade Hetch Hetchy and BART. He expressed his opinion the chance of bonds being sold in this climate is slim, at best.

Commissioner Gates clarified his motion states the Commission's general fund budget must be augmented by \$100,000, without specifying a source of those funds.

Commissioner Shapiro expressed his opinion it was not in the interests of the Commission to refuse to do this important task, just on the basis of cost. He pointed out the AB 16 program constitutes an 11 percent increase in the Commission's expenses. If necessary, he recommended taking cuts in other areas to make up the difference. Commissioner Shapiro emphasized the importance of getting the advisory committee's work done, and he urged the Commission to find a way. He proposed asking participating agencies to fund their representatives' committee activities.

Commissioner Church agreed with Commissioner Shapiro. He acknowledged Commissioner Gates was correct in pointing out the fiscal imprudence, but noted AB 16 is still a mandate that needs to be fulfilled. He recommended the Commission make every effort to comply with the law. Commissioner Church supported Commissioner Shapiro's ideas about sharing costs of the committee's work. He also recommended asking the Department of Finance to confirm their funding arrangements in writing.

Commissioner Klein asked if there was a reason for doing the advisory committee work even if the bond measure does not pass. If the work will benefit others, he recommended sharing the expenses.

Commissioner Gates clarified his motion was not refusing to do what is mandated by AB 16, but only that Seismic Safety Commission funds not be used to do it. He added that if the Coalition for Adequate School Housing, the American Institute of Architects, the Structural Engineers Association, Department of Education, California Schools Board, SEAOC, City of Los Angeles, or the Los Angeles Unified School District want to fund the work, they can contribute the money to pay for it. He emphasized his motion was silent as to funding sources.

In response to Commissioner Klein's question, Commissioner Shapiro responded that there was a purpose in going forward with the work, regardless of the bond issue. He explained that DSA has been wrestling with the issue for many years, and a policy is in place. However, many school districts feel it is not possible for existing commercial buildings to meet DSA standards and be converted to school use. Commissioner Shapiro said the school districts favor a more flexible policy, but not necessarily one that reduces seismic safety. Instead, they believe it may be

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possible to reach that level of seismic safety in a different fashion, and the purpose of the committee is to explore that possibility. Commissioner Shapiro added the intent of the AB 16 provision is not necessarily to save money for school districts, but to provide an alternative to acquiring new sites.

Commissioner Gates stated he was making the motion as chair of the Budget Committee. He advised the Commission it would be fiscally irresponsible to use Seismic Safety Commission funds for this work without a definite source of reimbursement. Commissioner Gates also pointed out the AB 16 work constitutes more than 11 percent of the Commission's budget. He clarified the general fund operating budget is \$992,000, of which \$662,000 goes for salaries and benefits, \$28,000 for office supplies and equipment, and \$67,000 for rent. This leaves approximately \$160,000 to do the Commission's work. For this reason, he noted, it was irresponsible to devote \$100,000 to an activity for which there was little or no hope of reimbursement.

Commissioner Church expressed concern that the Commission's reluctance will kill the project altogether. He agreed with Commissioner Shapiro the work was important enough to go forward.

Commissioner Moy noted the Ad Hoc Committee on Gas Valve Safety was funded by interested parties. He said both PG&E and Southern California Gas contributed approximately \$30,000 for committee activities, and he suggested a similar approach for AB 16. Commissioner Shapiro pointed out that committee travel accounts for about half the estimated costs so having stakeholders pick up those costs would considerably reduce the Commission's burden. He said he believed the Commission could adapt to the cost without crippling other operations. Commissioner Shapiro expressed his opinion the AB 16 advisory committee was one of the most important tasks ever asked of the Commission.

Commissioner Gates noted his motion only addresses not using Commission funds. He clarified it does not prohibit support from other sources. He acknowledged the expenses could be reduced by seeking support from stakeholders and absorbing some staff costs, but he still objected to using Commission funds for supporting the advisory committee. In fact, Commissioner Gates noted, the purpose of the motion is to force someone to do something.

Commissioner Moy said he was not comfortable with reimbursement authorization rather than actual funding.

Commissioner Klein asked if Commissioner Gates would agree to take on the AB 16 advisory committee task if outside agencies pay their own costs. Commissioner Gates responded he supported doing the task no matter who pays. He said he would favor the work if the Commission pays its own costs and other agencies absorb theirs. Mr. Sepulveda noted the only agencies specifically named in AB 16 are the State Fire Marshal and DSA; the language mentions "major professional associations representing architects, engineers, and school facilities designers, and other interested parties."

Mr. McCarthy noted the next step in the process would be establishing a priority list of certain categories and inviting selected individuals to participate on the committee.

Commissioner Gates said DSA is sitting on a multi-million-dollar fund for public education buildings and structures, and he recommended requesting \$100,000 from the State Architect.

Commissioner Gates restated his motion: to prohibit the expenditure for AB 16 advisory committee investigation of any Seismic Safety Commission funds until the Seismic Safety Commission general fund is augmented by \$100,000 to provide for such expenditures.

Mr. McCarthy proposed amending the motion to clarify the committee participants and Commission will pay their own expenses.

Commissioner Gates agreed to amend his motion to allow the Commission to pay its own expenses, not administrative costs or committee-related costs. He clarified the only costs the Commission should absorb are direct expenses for Commission staff and commissioners.

Mr. Sepulveda recommended changing the amount to “up to \$100,000,” and Commissioner Gates agreed.

Commission funds will be used only to support staff and Commissioner’s activities to carry out the requirements of AB16 until the Commission’s general fund is augmented by up to \$100,000.00.

* Motion carried, 6 - 1 (Commissioner Shapiro opposed).

Commissioner Moy suggested directing staff to seek funding from designated stakeholders and other interested parties in addition to the Department of Finance.

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

The Commission direct the staff to seek other sources of funding as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

Legislation

Mr. Sepulveda provided an update on pending legislation. He said AB 2002 (Alquist), the Commission’s urban search and rescue (USAR) bill, was put on the Suspense File for the Assembly Appropriations Committee. He noted the staff will continue to work with the committee to address their fiscal concerns.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that SB 1500 (Johnson), proposing a series of changes to the seismic hazards mapping program, was amended to call for disclosure of the hazard maps to prospective buyers rather than revisions to the maps themselves. He noted the Commission adopted an

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“oppose” position at the last meeting, but staff now recommends changing that to a “neutral” position.

ACTION: Commissioner Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nishinaga, that:

The Commission change its position from “opposed” to “neutral” on SB 1500 based on the recent amendments.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

Mr. Sepulveda informed the Commission that SB 1992 (Perata) was amended and introduced after the March meeting. That bill, calling for mandated installation of gas shut-off valves, was heard by the Senate Housing Committee and amended to require the Department of Housing and State Architect to consider directing the Building Standards Commission to adopt a regulation to that effect. Mr. Sepulveda observed the intent of the bill has changed from a mandate to an advisory, and he said he would keep the Commission informed as to its fate.

Commissioner Moy commented that the bill in its original form was objectionable to many people. He said the Legislature has been advised to wait for the Commission’s findings on gas valves before moving forward with SB 1992.

Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to AB 2708 (Mountjoy), a bill that calls for schools to adopt safety plans, including earthquake drills. Staff recommends support.

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

The Commission support AB 2708 as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

Mr. Sepulveda said the staff will send a letter of support for AB 2708.

VIII. UPDATE ON COMMISSION WEB PAGE

Mr. Robert Anderson presented an overview of recent Website enhancements. He said the Commission’s *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* is now available online, as is a radio interview with Commissioner Shapiro and Chairman Clark. Mr. Anderson showed satellite photographs illustrating ground movement resulting from the Hector Mine earthquake. He noted this information can be used to help predict future earthquakes by identifying fault segments with the highest strain.

Mr. Anderson noted the staff will be presenting a request at the June meeting for a no-cost extension of the current contract with San Diego State University to continue hosting the Commission’s Website. He noted the funds remaining under this contract will probably last until the end of fiscal year 2002-2003.

Mr. Anderson showed the links available to other Websites, including resources for earth science teachers.

Commissioner Moy expressed appreciation to the staff for the improvements to the Website. However, he expressed concern about posting draft documents that have not yet been approved by the Commission, such as the draft report on gas shut-off valves.

Mr. Anderson welcomed guidance from the Commission as to publication of draft documents. Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission sometimes mails hard copies of draft documents for public comment and review. Commissioners discussed whether it would be acceptable to publish drafts as long as they are clearly designated as drafts. Chairman Clark proposed the Executive Director deal with situations on a case-by-case basis as they arise.

Chairman Clark questioned the usefulness of some of the Website links for general members of the public. Mr. Vince Vibat noted that within the *Plan* document itself, there are links between many of the initiatives and related Websites. Chairman Clark recommended adding a brief explanation of why people would want to use each link.

Commissioners commended the staff for the recent progress on the Website.

Mr. Anderson added that the staff is working on a televised link as well. Mr. Vibat said photographs from the Commission's field trip to Hetch Hetchy would be posted on the Website within the next day.

IX. COMMISSION OPERATIONS AND ISSUES

Improving Commission Operations

Mr. McCarthy welcomed suggestions from Commissioners as to areas in which Commission operations can be improved and made more efficient.

Commissioner Moy recommended more interaction with staff regarding their outside activities. As examples, he noted Mr. Henry Reyes and Mr. Fred Turner are active in a number of organizations that are engaged in projects of interest to the Commission. Other commissioners supported that suggestion. Mr. McCarthy proposed adding staff reports as a regular agenda item under "Executive Director's Report."

Commissioner Church asked the staff to provide commissioners with handouts in advance of Commission meetings whenever possible.

Mr. McCarthy recommended continuing the current practice of scheduling Commission meetings alternately between Sacramento and other local government jurisdictions.

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Commission Role after Earthquakes

Mr. McCarthy noted that after a major earthquake, the Commission responds first by having a staff member participate in the OES clearinghouse, and then by sending teams of post-earthquake investigators to research technical issues. The Commission also addresses policy issues by holding public hearings to take testimony on lessons learned and new issues. Mr. McCarthy noted that after the Northridge earthquake, OES and FEMA set up a field office in Pasadena, which is still in the process of finalizing hazard mitigation grant applications. He said OES has approached the Commission about playing a more active role after major earthquakes by helping the local disaster field offices process applications for hazard mitigation grants. Mr. McCarthy noted Commission presence at the local disaster field office would be beneficial in terms of having input in defining the criteria for hazard mitigation grants; he estimated staffing would cost a few thousand dollars. He suggested budgeting funds from the Commission's emergency earthquake investigations account to support this activity.

Chairman Clark noted the Commission could also play a useful role after earthquakes by keeping people informed outside the immediate earthquake area. He observed that communications has been a chronic problem in past earthquakes. Mr. McCarthy said this issue also arises in the OES clearinghouse in terms of deciding who should speak for the clearinghouse.

Mr. McCarthy said he will be meeting further with OES and FEMA to discuss these possibilities. Commissioners supported this effort.

X. MISCELLANEOUS/GOOD OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Shapiro expressed his opinion the Commission's action on the motion regarding the AB 16 advisory committee had been a mistake. He emphasized the primary function of the Commission is to advise the Governor and Legislature, and AB 16 specifically asks for the Commission's advice. He urged the Commission to reconsider its position. He questioned how the committee can meet and function effectively without some financial support from the Commission. Commissioner Church noted it might be prudent to allocate \$10,000 for that purpose.

Commissioner Klein recommended pursuing funding from the State Architect, as mentioned by Commissioner Gates, and from stakeholders.

Chairman Clark commented that it would have been helpful to have the text of the motion in writing.

Mr. McCarthy assured the Commission he would not allow AB 16 activities to put the Commission in a deficit.

Chairman Clark recommended discussing this matter again at the June meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Commissioner Moy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Church, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Karen Cogan
Executive Assistant

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director