

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
January 9, 2003
State Capitol, Room 444
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Bruce R. Clark, Chairman
Stan Y. Moy, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman (arrived 9:29 a.m.)
Jim Beall
Lucy Jones
Lawrence T. Klein
Douglas E. Mochizuki
Celestine Palmer
Don Parker
Daniel Shapiro

Members Absent

Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Mark Church
Linden Nishinaga
Ashok S. Patwardhan

Staff Participating

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

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 said he had no remarks.

III. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002 MEETING MINUTES

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

The Commission approve the minutes of the November 25 meeting.

Referring to Page 2, the second paragraph under "Budget Update," Chairman Clark recommended inserting the words "to respond to the Department of Finance" after the word "director" in the second line.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 (Commissioner Adelman absent during voting).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Reductions

Executive Director Richard McCarthy said Governor Davis would be releasing his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2003-04 the following day, so more would be known about potential budget reductions at that time. He promised to keep the Commission updated on the status of the Commission's budget.

Director of Legislation Henry Sepulveda drew attention to the budget report covering expenditures for the period between July 1 and December 31, 2002.

AB 16 Report

Mr. McCarthy reviewed a summary of the Commission's reimbursable expenses associated with participating on the AB 16 Advisory Committee and preparing the AB 16 report. He noted the Commission is not able to bill for time spent by permanent staff members, so the total amount to be reimbursed is approximately \$44,500.

Commissioner Shapiro reported that he, Mr. Sepulveda, and Ms. Abby Browning met with a representative of the Governor's Office on January 8 to discuss the AB 16 report. He noted the Governor's representative was primarily concerned about the differences between performance-based design and conventional design, and she asked for an outline of the steps school districts need to follow to convert existing buildings to schools. Commissioner Shapiro said Ms. Browning will be preparing an outline of the proposed procedure. He observed that some public schools constructed between 1933 and 1976 are actually less earthquake-resistant than general buildings constructed after 1976. He added that the Commission representatives left the meeting feeling that the Governor's Office considers the AB 16 report recommendations a reasonable way of arriving at equivalent pupil safety.

FEMA Appeal

Mr. McCarthy reported that on behalf of the Seismic Safety Commission, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) filed a second appeal of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) denial of approximately \$216,000 charged for commissioner time spent in conjunction with preparing the Northridge earthquake report. He said that as part of the appeal process, the Commission is entitled to a face-to-face meeting with FEMA representatives. He promised to keep the Commission informed of future developments.

Mr. McCarthy noted that after reviewing the Commission's records, the staff concluded that FEMA owes the Commission another \$48,000. Instead of trying to resolve this complex accounting matter as part of the appeal, staff and OES believe it would be better to focus on the matching time issue first, and then deal with the accounting issue separately.

Meeting Minutes

2003 Meeting Schedule

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the proposed schedule of Commission meetings for 2003. He noted the February 13 meeting will be held in San Diego. He suggested meeting in April in conjunction with the OES Disaster-Resistant Conference in San Jose in lieu of the normal April and May meetings. After some discussion, commissioners agreed to meet during the afternoon of Wednesday, April 23, in San Jose.

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the Commission will be holding its annual workshop session on June 11 and 12, possibly at the Universal Sheraton in Los Angeles.

Mr. McCarthy welcomed suggestions from commissioners as to possible meeting locations other than Sacramento for the remaining meetings in 2003. He noted the July meeting might be held in Oakland in conjunction with a tour of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center.

Chairman Clark observed that nine commissioners' terms will be expiring on May 15, 2003. Ms. Cogan encouraged commissioners to apply for reappointments. She noted applications are available at the Governor's Web site. Mr. McCarthy added if the Governor does not make reappointments by the May 15 deadline, those commissioners can continue to serve for an additional 60 days, or until July 15.

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. McCarthy asked commissioners to review the Commission's strategic plan and be prepared to discuss possible revisions at the February meeting. He noted the strategic plan can also be reviewed in more detail at the June workshop meeting. Mr. McCarthy said the strategic plan was last revised in 2000.

Commissioner Shapiro commented that when it was adopted, the strategic plan was intended to cover a five-year period. He agreed revisions to the plan would be an appropriate topic for the workshop meeting in June.

Mr. McCarthy added that there is legislation pending to form a new commission to review the value of all state commissions that have adopted strategic plans. He noted the Seismic Safety Commission would fall under that category. Mr. McCarthy said Mr. Sepulveda would be discussing this pending bill in more detail as part of the legislative overview later in the meeting.

Office Relocation Update

Ms. Cogan noted the Commission's current sublease for office space expires at the end of February, 2003. She reported that a satisfactory four-year extension has been negotiated. The landlord originally proposed \$1.85 per square foot, up from the current \$1.50 per square foot. Working through the Department of General Service's Real Estate Services Division, the Commission was successful in negotiating a verbal agreement for four more years at \$1.50 per

square foot, with an increase of 5 cents per square foot in each of the subsequent years.

Earthquake Shaking Potential Map of California

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the earthquake shaking potential map posted on the wall. He said the map was developed with assistance from OES and the California Geological Survey, and he thanked Commissioner Jones, Chairman Clark, and Mr. Richard Eisner of OES for their help. Mr. McCarthy noted the map was prepared to educate new members of the Legislature about the earthquake shaking potential in their districts. He added that the map will be discussed in more detail at the February meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

VI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Clark reviewed proposed rosters for each of the Commission's committees. He briefly discussed the purpose and function of each committee. Chairman Clark noted that Bill Gates was no longer serving as a representative to the Commission, so his name should be deleted from the Planning and Budget Committee.

Chairman Clark invited commissioners interested in joining particular committees to let him know.

Commissioner Adelman volunteered to assist Commissioner Jones with updating the Commission's Research Implementation Plan. Chairman Clark noted the Research Plan should update should be completed by the end of the summer, and he asked Commissioner Jones to reactivate the group in preparation for that activity.

Under "External Committee Assignments," Commissioner Adelman pointed out the word "Building" should be inserted in the title of the "Hospital Building Safety Board."

Commissioner Jones volunteered to serve on the PEER Review Committee. Commissioner Shapiro recommended appointing Commissioner Nishinaga chair of that group.

Commissioner Adelman volunteered to serve as the Commission's representative to the new Building Standards Commission Advisory Board, with Commissioner Shapiro as alternate and Mr. Fred Turner providing staff support.

Commissioner Adelman explained that this group was formed to advise the Building Standards Commission on appropriate revisions to the 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC). He noted the Building Standards Commission decided not to adopt the new International Building Code for California, so the 1997 UBC went into effect in November, 2002. However, because of concerns regarding the adequacy of the seismic provisions, the Building Standards Commission formed

Meeting Minutes

the new advisory board to look at possible seismic updates, such as the more advanced provisions enacted in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Commissioner Adelman said emergency provisions may be ready for adoption as soon as March.

Commissioner Shapiro recommended that the Commission ask its appointed representatives to external committees to provide periodic updates to the Commission. Other commissioners supported this idea.

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

The Commission approve the appointment of Commissioner Adelman to represent the Commission on the Building Standards Commission Advisory Board, with Commissioner Shapiro as alternate and Mr. Fred Turner as the assigned staff.

* Motion carried, 10 - 0.

Chairman Clark drew attention to the proposed roster for the Commission's new Education and Outreach Committee. He asked the committee members to elect a chair. Chairman Clark said items needing attention by the committee as soon as possible include dissemination of the new seismic hazard map to legislators and preparing for the 2006 centennial of the 1906 earthquake and the tenth anniversary of the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Commissioner Jones commented that the Southern California Earthquake Center is planning a year-long series of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, and she recommended that the Commission tie in with those efforts.

Commissioner Adelman said he was asked to chair the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute's annual conference at the Universal Sheraton in February, 2004. He recommended that the Commission make a presentation on its activities at that conference, and he welcomed suggestions from commissioners.

Commissioner Mochizuki recommended sponsoring a booth at the OES disaster conference in April. He noted the Commission could make copies of the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* and other publications available. He volunteered to help man the booth. Ms. Cogan invited other commissioners interested in staffing the booth to contact her to coordinate their schedules. Chairman Clark suggested discussing this idea further at the next meeting.

Commissioner Mochizuki encouraged each commissioner to attend annual conferences related to their areas of expertise. He noted these occasions could provide opportunities to promote Commission goals and disseminate the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. Commissioner Adelman expressed support for this idea. He recommended making a presentation or sponsoring a booth at the League of California Cities' annual conference in late September. He noted this annual conference attracts city managers and administrators from throughout the state. Commissioner Adelman offered to help arrange participation at this event.

Chairman Clark asked the Education and Outreach Committee to identify events of this type at which a Commission presence would be beneficial. He requested that Commissioner Palmer take the lead in organizing a meeting of the committee pending their election of a chair. He asked her to establish an agenda, arrange a meeting, and report back at the February meeting. Commissioner Palmer agreed to take on this task.

Commissioner Parker recommended notifying all commissioners of the committee meeting schedules so they can attend committee meetings when possible. Chairman Clark suggested developing a three-month calendar of committee meetings and other events.

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

The Commission approve the committee assignments as proposed.

* Motion carried, 10 - 0.

Mr. McCarthy reviewed the proposed 2003 meeting schedule for the benefit of Commissioner Adelman, who had arrived late. He asked Commissioner Adelman to arrange a tour of a Los Angeles facility in conjunction with the June workshop meeting. Commissioner Adelman proposed touring City Hall or the new cathedral; he said he would work on making tour arrangements.

VII. LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Mr. Sepulveda noted the nominations of new Commissioners Beall, Jones, Palmer, and Parker will be heard by the Senate Rules Committee on January 29. He said these commissioners should submit their goals statement and financial disclosure forms by January 13, and he offered his assistance in answering questions on those items.

Mr. Sepulveda discussed new bills of interest to the Commission and legislative proposals for 2003-04.

SB 9 (McClintock and Perata)

Mr. Sepulveda said SB 9 would create a new Bureaucracy Realignment and Closure Commission to develop recommendations on closure or realignment of state agencies, departments, offices, and commissions. He noted the Seismic Safety Commission would be one of the entities that would be scrutinized by the new commission.

AB 28 (Pavley)

Mr. Sepulveda noted AB 28 would assist state and local fire service agencies in purchasing hazardous materials apparatus and equipment through OES with federal funds. He noted the author is interested in coordinating this effort with urban search and rescue activities.

Meeting Minutes

2003-04 Legislative Proposals

Mr. Sepulveda noted proposals for new legislation are due by January 24, with introduction of bills by the end of February. He observed that the state's \$35 billion budget deficit means there will be limited resources for at least the next year and a half, so attention needs to be given to the funding implications of all legislative proposals. Mr. Sepulveda said that based on feedback from the Commission and the Legislative Advisory Committee, the staff proposes moving forward with the following five legislative proposals this year.

1. Seismic Safety Bond Act of 2004: Mr. Sepulveda suggested developing a bill to authorize issuance of up to \$700 million in state general obligation bonds to provide funds on a matching basis to retrofit local government essential services buildings. He noted these would include police, fire, and communications facilities. Mr. Sepulveda noted the \$50 million bond bill passed in 1990 funded only about 132 projects, leaving a huge number of other local buildings in need of work. The \$700 million bond would help address these unmet needs by funding retrofits for local government essential services buildings already identified by the Department of General Services.
2. Design-Build Contracting for K-12 Schools: Mr. Sepulveda noted the Governor signed legislation last year authorizing design-build contracting for certain community college projects. Staff recommends pursuing new legislation to conform K-12 standards with those adopted for community college design-build projects.
3. Mandatory Water Heater Strapping for Residential Rental Units: Staff proposes a bill phasing in a requirement to strap water heaters in residential units, triggered upon a change in occupancy. Mr. Sepulveda noted a similar requirement is already in place for single-family units, triggered by a sale of the property or replacement of a water heater. Staff recommends that the bill also specify strapping methods as detailed in the Commission's *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*.
4. School Safety and Preparedness Inspections and Evaluations: Based on a Commission survey that found many schools are not complying with mandated SEMS preparedness programs developed by OES, the staff proposes a bill requiring periodic inspections of school facilities by local fire services and a grading system based on those inspections and the checklist developed by OES.
5. AB 16 Follow-Up: Mr. Sepulveda suggested developing a bill directing the California Department of Education to develop a checklist for use by local school districts to evaluating the feasibility of converting existing buildings to schools. He noted this effort should be coordinated with the regulations being developed by the Division of the State Architect (DSA). He noted Assemblyman Frommer has expressed interest in authoring a bill on this subject.

Regarding the proposal for strapping water heaters in rental units, Commissioner Adelman

recommended clarifying the language regarding the triggering events for multi-unit buildings. He said he was under the impression that multi-unit buildings, like single-family residences, are currently required to strap water heaters when the building is sold or when a water heater is replaced. He added that he would meet with the staff later to discuss specific language.

Commissioner Beall commented that in Item 5, the AB 16 follow-up legislation, the California Department of Education checklist should be related to the DSA regulations for converting existing buildings. Mr. Sepulveda said the checklist would be a logical first step in developing the regulations. Chairman Clark questioned the need for legislation on this topic, noting DSA will be developing a checklist that will resolve the issue. He suggested determining the need for this bill before proceeding.

Mr. Sepulveda recommended that the Commission approve the concepts and authorize the staff to work with legislators as appropriate.

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the five proposals were chosen carefully. He noted they all entail minimal costs and no general fund monies are necessary for any of them.

Regarding Item 4, which requires local fire services to conduct school preparedness inspections, Commissioner Mochizuki recommended consulting Cal Chiefs, the State Fire Marshal, and fire service trade organizations to verify their support. Commissioner Parker agreed, and noted the issue of funding for training fire service personnel needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Jones observed that OES just completed a school preparedness checklist, and local fire jurisdictions are already inspecting schools for fire and life safety compliance. She noted a process should be developed for preparing a report card or grading system that provides positive feedback to schools so they know what they need to do to improve preparedness. Commissioner Jones commented that the ability to use bond funds for nonstructural mitigation may encourage school districts to take the initiative to address safety hazards.

Commissioner Parker suggested looking at school districts' policies for handling student populations after earthquakes and other disasters. He noted some schools release students, while others keep them on the premises. He said that a recent earthquake near Morgan Hill caused a serious gas leak, so releasing students may not have been the most prudent response.

Commissioner Mochizuki recommended tying OES reimbursement funding to the compliance checklist. For example, he noted, if having an emergency plan in place is used as a criterion for reimbursement eligibility, it could serve as an incentive for school districts to work more diligently on their preparedness.

Chairman Clark suggested authorizing the staff to proceed to develop the legislative concepts proposed. He noted Items 4 and 5 need further work before submitting them as bill proposals. Other commissioners agreed.

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

Meeting Minutes

The Commission approve the proposed legislative agenda for 2003-04.

* Motion carried, 10 - 0.

Mr. Sepulveda asked commissioners to contact him within the next week if they had other ideas for legislation. Chairman Clark said new proposals would need to come to the Commission for approval at the February meeting.

Chairman Clark asked about the status of the 2008 deadline for hospital seismic safety improvements. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the Hospital Seismic Safety Act requires acute care facilities to meet non-collapse standards by 2008 and higher standards by 2030. Because certain hospitals contended they would be unable to meet the 2008 deadline, there were bills considered in the last legislative session to all extensions under certain conditions, but none of those measures succeeded. However, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) has the ability to grant five-year extensions to 2013 to hospitals requesting more time. Mr. Sepulveda said the staff has been informed that OSHPD is granting extensions automatically upon request.

Commissioner Shapiro noted the Hospital Seismic Safety Act sets different performance levels that hospitals are supposed to meet in 2008 and 2030. Hospitals complained that these deadlines would require them to conduct two different types of evaluations, which would be burdensome and disruptive. He said the Commission supported granting extensions to hospitals who agreed to meet the 2030 standards by 2013, because this would have improved seismic safety.

Chairman Clark observed that the Commission's white paper contained a recommendation to that effect, but hospitals are not being required to meet 2030 standards as a condition for an extension now. Mr. Sepulveda noted some hospitals are requesting extensions from OSHPD that simply delay the needed work. Chairman Clark expressed hope that some hospitals will take the initiative to meet the 2030 standards by 2013 anyway. Commissioner Shapiro noted the Kaiser system volunteered to meet that goal.

VIII. SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Cogan drew attention to the Commission's draft annual report for 2002, under Tab E of the meeting packet. She said she solicited comments from commissioners in December, and those changes have been incorporated in the latest version.

Ms. Cogan noted 2002 was a busy year for the Commission, and a number of important tasks were accomplished. She cited completion of the AB 16 report and the report on gas valve safety as examples. In addition, the Commission conducted tours of the Hetch Hetchy system and the Port of Long Beach, engaged in outreach and partnership activities with Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture, and translated the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* into Japanese. Ms. Cogan referred to the report for details of other activities. She recommended that the Commission adopt the report and approve its submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Commissioner Adelman said he had a few more editorial changes, and he apologized for not submitting his comments sooner.

Referring to Page 6, "Progress Report on *California Loss Reduction Plan*," second sentence, Commissioner Adelman asked for clarification as to what document was being referred to by "This document." Ms. Cogan responded that "This document" referred to the tracking document described in the previous sentence; she said she would clarify that language.

On Page 7, third paragraph, Commissioner Adelman said Mr. Massoud Abolhoda's title should be listed as "Chief Building Official, City of Fremont."

In the last paragraph on Page 8, second sentence, Commissioner Adelman asked what was meant by "bounding set of events." Chairman Clark explained that this phrase indicated the range of extremes.

On Page 10, last sentence, Commissioner Adelman noted the word "access" should be changed to "assess" or "monitor."

Referring to the section on Page 12 titled "Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant Dry Cask Storage Facility," Commissioner Adelman said he had some comments he would discuss with Mr. McCarthy after the meeting.

Finally, on Page 15, Commissioner Adelman noted the comma between "Principal" and "Architect" in Mr. Richard Conrad's title should be deleted.

Chairman Clark recommended changing "Mr. Jack Moehle" to "Dr. Jack Moehle" on Page 15 and Page 12.

On Page 2, under "Commission Membership," next to the first vacant position, Chairman Clark suggested changing "Soils Engineer" to "Soils Engineering."

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

The Commission adopt the 2002 Annual Report as amended and approve its submission to the Governor and Legislature.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0 (Commissioner Jones absent during voting).

Commissioner Adelman commended the staff for the excellent quality of the report. Other commissioners agreed.

IX. INVENTORY OF K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS (AB 300)

Mr. Dennis Bellet, Chief of Regional Operations, Division of the State Architect (DSA),

Meeting Minutes

discussed the report on the seismic safety inventory of public schools conducted in response to AB 300. He acknowledged the contributions of members of the AB 300 Advisory Panel, consisting of DSA staff, representatives from the California Department of Education, FEMA, the California Geological Survey, structural engineers, Department of General Services, the Office of Public School Construction, the Applied Technology Council, and the Seismic Safety Commission.

Mr. Bellet explained that the purpose of the AB 300 report was to define the scope of the problem of potentially vulnerable school buildings in California. He said the investigation was limited to non-wood-frame buildings constructed to pre-1976 UBC standards. He added that of the 500 million square feet of school buildings in California, about 80 percent are wood frame. Mr. Bellet said the buildings in the inventory were grouped in two categories based on their types, and buildings in Category 2 are recommended for further study and evaluation.

Mr. Bellet noted the inventory revealed that about 7,500 school buildings in California are potentially vulnerable to earthquake damage. Most of these are located in urban environments in Seismic Zone 4. Mr. Bellet said the AB 300 report also contains estimates of repair costs. In order to bring the vulnerable buildings to life safety standards, repair costs would be approximately \$4.2 billion; bringing these buildings to a higher standard of damage control, comparable to current Field Act standards, would cost nearly \$4.7 billion. The report recommends repairing buildings in stages, focusing first on buildings in Category 2 nearest to major earthquake faults. Using this approach, the report estimates it would cost about \$1 billion for each stage. Mr. Bellet noted the report also identifies typical steps in a rehabilitation program, starting with selecting performance objectives, then ranking and evaluating buildings, estimating costs, and securing funds.

Mr. Bellet emphasized the AB 300 report is intended for scoping purposes and does not address individual buildings. He said that in conducting the evaluations, DSA looked at 16,000 sets of plans, so detailed reviews were not possible. He noted many of the records used were old, and allowances were not made for buildings that had been demolished or retrofitted.

Mr. Bellet said DSA will be sending a letter to all school districts in California notifying them the AB 300 report is available on DSA's Web site. DSA will also offer assistance to school districts interested in developing retrofit programs.

Commissioner Shapiro commended DSA and Mr. Bellet for producing the AB 300 report. He noted the report does a good job exposing the extent of the problem and estimating the magnitude of the repair costs.

Chairman Clark noted it might be useful to combine DSA's database with the HAZIS database so the information can be used to predict damage levels resulting from earthquakes.

Commissioner Jones asked what information DSA can disseminate to school districts. Mr. Bellet responded that DSA can provide school districts with lists of buildings and building types, as well as how many buildings in each district were identified in Category 1 and Category 2. In

addition, DSA can provide guidance as to which buildings are near major earthquake faults, based on information from the California Geological Survey. Mr. Bellet noted this information would be useful for scoping and prioritizing. He commented that the next step in a rehabilitation program would be more detailed surveys of the vulnerable buildings. Commissioner Jones recommended that DSA provide as much information as possible to school districts.

Commissioner Shapiro commented that some school districts do not want to know about their vulnerable buildings because such knowledge could expose them to liability.

Chairman Clark suggested transmitting the information to local education departments as well.

Commissioner Mochizuki asked if the information in the AB 300 report could be used to evaluate existing buildings for potential conversion to schools. Mr. Bellet responded that school districts and their structural engineers might be able to look at the types of buildings in Category 1 and Category 2 to determine the types best suited for conversions. Commissioner Shapiro added that it might be helpful to look at retrofits of Field Act buildings as models, because DSA has records verifying that those buildings were properly constructed.

Chairman Clark thanked Mr. Bellet for his presentation.

X. NONSTRUCTURAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Richard Eisner, FAIA, Manager, California Integrated Seismic Network and Earthquake Program, Office of Emergency Services, reviewed OES' guidelines and checklist for nonstructural hazards in schools. He noted that this project was developed in response to SB 1122, Senator Alarcon's 1999 bill directing OES to provide a pamphlet to help school districts identify and mitigate the risks of nonstructural hazards in K-14 schools.

Mr. Eisner said OES looked at Seismic Safety Commission publications, FEMA 74, publications from OES and DSA, and materials developed for FEMA's Project Impact. He noted OES plans to mail the report and a CD containing background reports to every school district in California. He emphasized that the report is intended as a guide and a supplement rather than as a substitute for review by a qualified design professional.

Commissioner Jones asked whether the checklist could be used as a basis for evaluating school preparedness. Mr. Eisner responded that the checklist would be a good starting point for developing an assessment and scoring system.

Chairman Clark suggested working with parent-teacher organizations as well as school districts to disseminate the information.

Commissioner Jones commented that some schools without parent-teacher organizations have better earthquake safety because that responsibility is not sloughed off on the parent-teacher organizations. She supported Chairman Clark's idea about working with these organizations, but noted many schools do not have them. In addition, Commissioner Jones noted, some school

Meeting Minutes

districts will not allow PTA's to do mitigation work because they fear liability from having non-licensed people performing those tasks.

Mr. Eisner commented that many schools in his district were constructed in the 1960's and 1970's, and they have been modified since then with partitions and furniture dividers that present hazards in earthquakes. He said that based on his experience, active involvement of parents can be instrumental in triggering remedial action.

Mr. Eisner noted that SB 1122 directs OES to distribute the pamphlet and checklist to school districts and governing boards. He said OES will send a copy to the Seismic Safety Commission and will have extra copies that can be provided to others. Mr. Eisner added that the documents will also be available on the DSA and OES Web sites.

Commissioner Jones observed that DSA is also mailing materials to schools, and she suggested that the two agencies work together to mail their documents in a single packet. Mr. Eisner said he would talk with Mr. Bellet to see if the mailing efforts can be coordinated.

Commissioner Parker recommended sharing the documents with charter schools as well. Mr. Eisner noted the materials will be available upon request to private schools and members of the public. Commissioner Palmer noted charter schools are members of public school districts in California, so they will have access to the documents. Mr. Eisner pointed out the problem is making sure the districts disseminate the materials to all their school sites.

Commissioner Shapiro recommended that the Seismic Safety Commission address the seismic safety of private schools. He noted many students in California are housed in buildings that are not as safe as those used for public schools. Commissioner Jones observed that the children killed in the recent earthquake in Italy were in a private school. She added the same thing could happen in California.

Chairman Clark thanked Mr. Eisner for his presentation.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

XII. GOOD OF THE MEETING

There were no other matters raised by members of the Commission or staff.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Shapiro made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Parker, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

January 9, 2003

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director