

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 9, 2003
Encinal Yacht Club/Conference Center, Regatta Room
1251 Pacific Marina
Alameda, California

Members Participating

Stan Y. Moy, Chairman
Lucy Jones, Vice Chair (arr. 9:04 a.m.)
Jim Beall (arr. 9:25 a.m.)
Mark Church
Lawrence T. Klein
Don Manning
Linden Nishinaga
Celestine Palmer
Donald R. Parker
Daniel Shapiro

Members Absent

Andrew Adelman
Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Bruce Clark
Jimmie R. Yee

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy
Robert Anderson
Karen Cogan
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 Stan Moy at 9:00 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Moy thanked the Encinal Yacht Club for hosting the meeting and arranging reduced lodging rates for the Commission and staff.

Chairman Moy noted the Commission would have a working lunch to discuss budget issues and then adjourn to a tour of the FEMA Region IX headquarters building in downtown Oakland.

Chairman Moy drew attention to the latest version of the committee rosters. He asked commissioners to let him know if they wanted to make any changes.

III. FEMA REGION IX BRIEFING

Chairman Moy introduced Mr. Jeff Griffin, Regional Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and invited him to address the Commission.

Mr. Griffin discussed recent changes in FEMA's organization. He noted that legislation was

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enacted in November of 2002 creating the Department of Homeland Security, an entity composed of 22 federal agencies, including FEMA. He said the new Department has a staff of 214,000 people, of whom approximately 2,500 are working at FEMA. Mr. Griffin stated that since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the federal government has been focusing on combating terrorism. FEMA, with its mission of coordinating federal response to disasters, is playing a part in that effort.

Mr. Griffin noted that besides responding the terrorism, FEMA is concerned about natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. He said FEMA is committed to the idea of preparedness and mitigation as key tools in responding and recovering from disasters caused by both natural and manmade hazards.

Commissioner Don Parker asked how FEMA plans to correlate earthquake preparation and preparing for multiple hazards with the federal government's new emphasis on homeland security. He noted the Commission and other state agencies are facing tremendous budget problems, so it might be possible to combine forces and work synergistically on programs that help protect the public from disasters, a benefit of mutual concern to both the Seismic Safety Commission and FEMA. Mr. Griffin agreed, and noted FEMA is an all-hazards agency that supports all preparedness efforts. He said the Department of Homeland Security has been making direct grants to fire department to help improve their preparedness and response capabilities. He expressed his opinion that it would make sense for the Seismic Safety Commission and FEMA to work together because both agencies serve many of the same customers. He added that he would confer with Mr. Jeff Lusk, Regional Earthquake Specialist, after the meeting regarding opportunities for joint projects.

Chairman Moy thanked Mr. Griffin for his presentation.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS (Continued)

Chairman Moy noted that former Commissioner Paul Fratessa had passed away recently. He asked Commissioner Dan Shapiro to say a few words about Mr. Fratessa's contributions to seismic safety.

Commissioner Shapiro said Mr. Fratessa chaired the Seismic Safety Commission before Dan was on the Commission and represented the structural engineering community on the Commission. He noted Mr. Fratessa recently retired after serving as the academic dean of the College of Architecture and Engineering at Cal Poly. He added that Mr. Fratessa's death is a major loss to the engineering community and the public at large.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11 AND SEPTEMBER 24, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Cogan noted that Commissioner Linden Nishinaga had proposed some minor changes to Page 14 of the September 11 minutes. He recommended rewording the first sentence of the fourth full paragraph on that page to read as follows: "Commissioner Nishinaga commented that

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there may be problems in being overly adherent.”

Commissioner Shapiro noted the word “mandated” should be inserted before “basic functions” in the second sentence.

Referring to the last sentence in that same paragraph, Commissioner Lawrence Klein clarified that he was unable to state with certainty that the Department of Finance was actually trying to be fair and even-handed in applying the budget cuts. He suggested changing “is trying to be” to “may be.”

ACTION: Commissioner Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Don Manning, that:

The Commission approve the September 11 and September 24 minutes as amended.

* Motion carried, 10 - 0.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Budget Update

Executive Director Richard McCarthy drew attention to the two budget handouts, the spreadsheet and the spreadsheet prepared by CFS showing projected expenditures. He said further across-the-board cuts are likely this fiscal year, so the Commission may have some difficult decisions to make at the November meeting. He noted that the Governor’s budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 will be released in mid-January, and that budget may propose additional cuts. Mr. McCarthy added that he would have more news at the next meeting.

Commissioner Klein observed that both budget reports are fairly close in terms of their projections. He said the Commission’s budget is on track for this year.

Referring to the first page of the projected expenditures report, Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission anticipates receiving approximately \$31,000 for the invoice submitted to PEER, and there are some additional travel expenses that need to be added. He said these amounts have not yet been included in the budget’s bottom line.

Commissioner Klein asked if the workers’ compensation claim was likely to be settled soon. Ms. Cogan responded that the Commission has not yet received an estimate of total costs because the case is just getting underway. She said \$1,300 was billed to the Commission for a medical evaluation, and costs of the upcoming deposition will be shared among all the agencies involved.

Ms. Cogan explained that the asbestos exposure claim was filed by the husband of a deceased state employee who worked for the Commission for about eleven months in 1981 and 1982. Ms. Cogan reported that the Commission’s office building was tested for asbestos, and the reports indicate there was no hazard to employees. She added that the Commission is hoping its

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exposure will be minor.

WSSPC Award and Conference

Senior Structural Engineer Fred Turner reported that he and Commission Shapiro attended the meeting of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) in Portland, Oregon, and accepted an award on behalf of the Commission. He said the award was given to recognize the Commission for its products pertaining to natural gas safety. He passed around the award plaque and a photograph showing Mr. Jim Davis presenting the award.

Mr. Turner said he talked with WSSPC representatives about the Commission's potential role in a national earthquake conference to be held in St. Louis next year. He noted the purpose of the conference is to assemble representatives from seismic safety commissions in all states in the U.S. Besides participating in a roundtable discussion and sharing information, the Commission has been asked to help arrange speakers and develop the conference agenda. Mr. Turner said the dates of the conference are September 30 and October 1, 2004. He recommended that the Commission consider sending two or three representatives.

Chairman Moy noted WSSPC paid for Mr. Turner to attend the Portland conference and Commissioner Shapiro paid his own way. He cautioned that the state's budget crisis may create problems in terms of future out-of-state travel.

Initiative Progress Tracking Document

Mr. McCarthy presented a copy of the Commission's tracking document to Mr. Lusk from FEMA. He noted the document tracks progress on all initiatives in the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* and lists the total amount spent for all state mitigation and recovery programs. The document also contains success stories illustrating the importance of mitigation.

Mr. McCarthy asked commissioners to review the tracking document and be prepared to make comments at the November meeting so the report can be forwarded to the new administration and legislation.

Mr. McCarthy commented that the expenditure data is quite impressive and shows that the state has spent a substantial amount on mitigation activities since 1989. He noted FEMA might be of assistance in helping the Commission convert 1990 dollars to 2002 dollars.

Strategic Plan

Mr. McCarthy noted that the Commission will be reviewing and approving the final version of the Strategic Plan as part of a later agenda item. He emphasized that the plan will be important in justifying the Commission's activities and expenditures to the new administration.

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission will also be hearing an update on the Office of Emergency Services' hazard mitigation plan later in the meeting.

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Chairman Moy proposed taking the State Hazard Mitigation Plan briefing out of order.

X. STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN BRIEFING (Out of Order)

Mr. Turner provided a report describing the Commission's efforts in helping OES develop the earthquake section of the new statewide multi-hazard mitigation plan. He noted there are different definitions of "mitigation," but the one used by FEMA is cited on Page 2 of the staff report. He pointed out that this definition emphasizes "brick and mortar" mitigation activities rather than human preparedness and emergency response.

Mr. Turner said the multi-hazard plan being developed by OES is part of new FEMA requirements for eligibility for funding through the pre-disaster mitigation program. Although earthquakes are California's greatest hazard, there are other types of natural disaster hazards addressed in the plan. Mr. Turner added that FEMA may eventually want the states to set priorities, and then OES will need to balance the relative importance of the hazards in California.

Mr. Turner stated that once the earthquake section of the plan is completed, the draft will be released on November 1, and the Seismic Safety Commission will hold public hearings on the contents of the seismic section.

Mr. Turner drew attention to the table of contents for the overall plan, and the more detailed outline of the earthquake section currently being drafted. He noted specific staff people have been assigned to work on particular topics. He invited Staff Geologist Robert Anderson to review the section on earthquake hazards and profiling hazards and losses.

Mr. Anderson said he has been working closely with both OES and the California Geological Survey to obtain information on the geotechnical hazards and loss histories.

Mr. Turner described how the inventories and loss estimates were being conducted. He noted the section has two basic parts, one dealing with building inventories, and then one dealing with everything else. He said the text will identify the inventories, analyze risks, and discuss mitigation efforts and progress.

Mr. Anderson reported that he was working on the sections covering utilities and transportation. In this area, the goal has been to develop a damage assessment protocol similar to that used for buildings and other systems. He said a new table was created to better integrate information from a variety of sources. The text will include information on mitigation activities for each kind of system.

Mr. Anderson commented that he was able to gather a great deal of helpful information from the Commission's new tracking document.

Mr. Anderson noted the plan will include a review of mitigation laws and programs, a description of the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*, and a discussion of the initiatives contained in the *Plan*. Mr. Anderson commented that the Commission may eventually be asked

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to prioritize the initiatives overall rather than just identifying key priorities for each element.

Mr. Anderson acknowledged that the draft section has significant gaps in some areas, and he welcomed comments and feedback from commissioners. He asked that suggestions be submitted to the staff as soon as possible so a revised draft can be completed within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Jim Beall asked if the statewide multi-hazard plan was supposed to include an assessment of state and local funding capabilities. Mr. Turner said FEMA requires such a financial assessment, but it was in another section of the document, not in the earthquake portion. Commissioner Beall commented that funding should be a key element in the mitigation plan.

Commissioner Beall noted that after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, many local governments experienced problems working with the FEMA claim process. Sometimes the inefficiency led to huge backlogs in claims and many mistakes. He suggested seeking training in advance of disasters to familiarize staff with all aspects of the claim-filing process. Mr. Turner acknowledged that many jurisdictions and state agencies experienced similar frustration working with FEMA. He said OES currently offers training for planners in anticipation of the need for post-event training.

Mr. Turner stated that the law has changed significantly since the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes to give the state a managing role in disaster response and assign larger responsibility to OES. In addition, FEMA has streamlined its process. Mr. Turner cautioned that the new structure has not yet been tested in a major disaster, but changes have been made.

Commissioner Shapiro observed that having a specific plan in place is a way of preserving institutional memory that might otherwise be lost between disasters.

Chairman Moy thanked the staff for the update.

Commissioner Beall suggested that the Commission look into the topic of staff training for the claims-filing process at a future meeting. Mr. Turner agreed, and noted it might be worthwhile to request an update from OES.

Commissioner Lucy Jones commented that in order to assess the relative risks and assign priorities, it would be helpful to understand the magnitude of each risk. She asked if figures were available to quantify the risk from other hazards in the state.

Mr. Jeff Lusk, FEMA, stated that it is up to state and local jurisdictions to assess risks and priorities, but that work is being done. He said data on fires and floods is quantifiable, and the HAZUS system has provided new assessment tools.

Commissioner Jones asked if multi-hazard HAZUS analysis was currently available. Mr. Lusk responded that multi-hazard capacity was coming soon.

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Commissioner Jones said she would convey further comments to Mr. Tuner and Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Turner stated the CGS was responsible for most of the geological information and the staff compiled inventory statistics. He invited commissioners to provide their input to help fill some of the gaps.

Commissioner Klein noted San Francisco obtained SEMS training for its finance staff, knowing they would have responsibility to track and report disaster response expenses through OES.

Commissioner Don Parker noted that at a previous Commission meeting, the Commission heard an interesting report from a representative of the State Lands Commission on marine oil terminals. He suggested asking people with expertise in some of these specific areas to assist the staff in drafting those parts of the plan.

Commissioner Parker observed that in the area of transportation systems, the number of ferry services has increased, but many are using piers and facilities more than fifty years old.

Mr. Turner confirmed that the staff intends to seek out expertise to fill the gaps in the plan. He welcomed suggestions from commissioners as to specific people to contact.

Commissioner Parker said the American Bureau of Shipping, located in the same building in downtown Oakland as the new FEMA headquarters, maintains detailed data on ferries.

Mr. Turner commented that the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has been a source of very useful information. He said ABAG received a \$600,000 grant to develop a multi-hazard mitigation plan for the Bay Area. He noted the earthquake section of the OES plan is only about 47 pages long, while the ABAG document is far more detailed.

Chairman Moy asked about the next steps in the process. Mr. McCarthy said the staff will complete the initial draft, submit it to OES, and then have it reviewed by FEMA and local government people.

Mr. Turner said the staff has nearly completed the earthquake section, which is due to OES in mid-November.

Mr. McCarthy added that his chief concern was the possible need for the Commission to set priorities. He noted that in the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*, there were eleven elements, each with its own priorities and initiatives. When it adopted the *Plan*, the Commission did not attempt to set any overall priorities. Mr. McCarthy said that if FEMA asks OES to recommend priorities, it may take some time to develop consensus.

Mr. Turner noted OES expects to complete the entire multi-hazard plan and finish the public hearing process in May of 2004.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Ad Hoc Committee on School Safety

Staff Structural Engineer Henry Reyes noted the Commission sent a letter to the legislature and governor advising of the need to look at school safety in light of the earthquake deaths of school children in Italy. The Commission appointed a committee, chaired by Commissioner Jones, and with Commissioners Adelman, Klein, and Shapiro serving as members, to proceed with developing a white paper on the issue. Mr. Reyes reported that the committee met on September 17 to establish a scope of work and plan future meetings.

Mr. Reyes drew attention to the proposed scope outlined in the staff report. He said the committee plans to first determine what the current standards are, then schedule meetings and take testimony from design professionals, local building departments, and the Division of the State Architect (DSA) regarding the plan check and construction process and quality control systems used on public, private, and charter schools in California. Once that process is complete, the committee will draft a white paper that attempts to quantify the relative seismic safety of each system and make recommendations. Mr. Reyes said the committee expects to complete a draft by February and a final version of the white paper by March of 2004.

Commissioner Jones explained that one of the primary purposes of the white paper is to clarify what rules apply where. She noted there is a great deal of misunderstanding about when the Field Act applies, its implications on the building process, and how best to address existing structures and risks. She said the committee will be asking DSA to make a presentation to clarify the process.

Commissioner Shapiro commented that it would be most helpful to have information on how schools of various types performed in past earthquakes.

Mr. Reyes stated that it has been relatively difficult to obtain information on private and charter school buildings.

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission budgeted \$10,000 for this activity, and he expressed his belief that the white paper and hearing process could be completed within that amount. He said the Research Implementation Committee has a budget of \$5,000 to update the Research Implementation Plan. He added that he views completion of these two projects as key priorities for the staff.

Chairman Moy expressed his opinion that the end products will be well worth the modest expenses.

Research Implementation Committee

Commissioner Jones reported that the committee was working on writing the plan. She said she expected to meet once more to wrap up the effort. Commissioner Jones noted that last version of the Research Implementation Plan was completed after the Northridge earthquake. The committee has updated that information and linked it with the priorities in the *California*

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Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan.

VII. LEGISLATION

Director of Legislation Henry Sepulveda drew attention to his written report and charts showing signed legislation, enrolled legislation, pending legislation, and failed legislation.

He noted AB 1576 (Liu), requiring strapping of water heaters in residential rental units, was signed into law by the governor.

Mr. Sepulveda said Table 2, the enrolled legislation, consists of bills that were passed by both houses of the legislature and forwarded to the governor for his signature. He noted the governor can sign, veto, or allow a bill to become law without his signature.

Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to SB 1049, the trailer bill establishing the fee-based funding support for the Seismic Safety Commission, is likely to become law, although it might not be signed by the governor. He said the new system will go into effect on January 1, 2004.

Mr. Sepulveda noted Table 3 shows pending legislation, or two-year bills that did not succeed this year. He said the bills will either die or be resurrected and possibly amended, and the staff will continue to monitor them.

Mr. Sepulveda reviewed the list of failed bills, including AB 86 (Daucher), allowing home rule school districts; SB 242 (Knight), which would have allowed community colleges to use either the Uniform Building Code or the Field Act; and SB 1014 (Aanestad), suspending SB 1953 deadlines for retrofitting and upgrading of hospitals.

Commissioners asked how the change in administration will affect government positions and appointments. Mr. Sepulveda said Governor Davis is likely to remain in office until mid-November. He explained that some appointees are appointed for a set term, while others serve at the pleasure of the governor. He noted most department heads will probably be replaced, but staff people who are civil servants will remain. Mr. Sepulveda added that it is customary for people serving at the governor's pleasure to submit resignations, and then it is up to the new governor to decide whether to accept the resignations.

Mr. Sepulveda observed that the change in administration could affect the two vacant Commission seats. He added that Governor Davis might want to make appointments before November 15.

VIII. ADOPTION OF REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the final draft of the Commission's strategic plan. He noted strategic plans were first requested by the Wilson administration, and the practice is likely to continue. The document is very important because it helps define the Commission's long-range plans.

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Mr. McCarthy drew attention to changes proposed by Commissioner Nishinaga to expand the vision statement to include more specifics.

Chairman Moy asked whether Commissioner Nishinaga's changes were covered in the strategic plan. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that they were.

Commissioner Jones pointed out that Commissioner Nishinaga's language summarizes the contents of the strategic plan more clearly than citing another document, the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. Commissioner Nishinaga clarified that his intent was to make the Commission's vision more explicit to the average reader; he said that otherwise, the reasoning appears to be circular, with one plan referring to another plan.

Commissioner Shapiro expressed support for Commissioner Nishinaga's modification.

Commissioner Jones proposed deleting "in general," changing "which are" to "including," and replacing "pursuant to" with "so as to."

Commissioner Church said he thought the proposed addition was beneficial because it helps articulate the Commission's valid purposes.

Chairman Moy asked if commissioners had additional comments about the body of the strategic plan.

Mr. McCarthy confirmed that there was general consensus supporting the mission statement as written, and revising the vision statement as amended.

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

The Commission adopt the Strategic Plan as amended.

* Motion carried, 10 - 0.

Mr. McCarthy noted the body of the text was reduced from 20 pages to only 9 pages. He verified that commissioners were comfortable with the document as proposed.

Chairman Moy thanked Commissioner Shapiro for editing the document while on vacation.

Commissioner Shapiro pointed out another recommended change. In order to have a consistent format throughout the document, he noted that under the heading "Process" on Page 9, there should be a statement, "In order to Achieve Goal 4, the Commission will" before the checklist.

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission will be meeting during lunch to discuss future strategies, outreach ideas, and possible budget resources. He suggested thinking about reducing the Commission's legislative workload in anticipation of further reductions and scrutiny; he proposed sponsoring two bills, and using available funds to bring commissioners to Sacramento

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to meet with legislators and testify at hearings. Mr. McCarthy added that he expected the Commission's value to the State will need to be demonstrated, and another bill to eliminate the Field Act is likely.

Commissioner Jones observed that the white paper on the comparative safety of schools will clearly describe the benefits of Field Act requirements. Mr. McCarthy said opponents usually bring up cost issues. He added that there is a perception that the costs of using DSA are excessive, and the UBC provides just as much protection. Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission make use of its scare resources to combat this challenge.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the thrust of the opposition seems to be focused on creating broader exemptions and finding cheaper ways of doing business; many people feel the UBC is just as safe.

Commissioner Jones noted the best way of showing a performance differential between Field Act and regular buildings would be to look at earthquake damage for the entire state and for different kinds of buildings. Commissioner Nishinaga observed that regular buildings were constructed for different occupancies than schools. He noted it may be possible to do a structural comparison, but not an injury comparison. He pointed out that not one child has been killed in a California school building since the Field Act was enacted.

Commissioner Shapiro cautioned that most major earthquakes have occurred during non-school hours and seasons, so the system has never been tested at full occupancy. He emphasized the need to get a fair comparison between Field Act buildings and all other types of buildings, since other types are now eligible for consideration as schools.

Commissioner Jones noted the safety of children can be demonstrated with building performance data.

Commissioner Beall asked who were the main opponents to the Field Act. Commissioner Shapiro said opponents include certain building contractors, key school district officials, and representatives from the community colleges and state universities. Mr. Sepulveda added that community colleges want to be treated like UC and CSU buildings and object to having to comply with the Field Act when UC and CSU do not. Opponents typically cite higher construction costs and delays in the construction timeline. Commissioner Beall suggested striking a compromise, requiring Field Act compliance but streamlining the process. Commissioner Shapiro pointed out that DSA has made major improvements in its processes. Commissioner Beall noted a joint study to identify streamlining possibilities might be helpful.

Commissioner Shapiro stated that studies on timelines and costs already show that the plan check process is slower through DSA, and there is a small cost differential. He noted since those studies were done, however, DSA has streamlined its services and improved its plan check process. Commissioner Shapiro added that DSA still does a meticulous job, so the process can cause some delay for unwary contractors. He noted there should be ongoing interaction between the designers and plan checkers in advance to prevent problems.

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Chairman Moy asked if charter schools and private schools were subject to the Field Act. Commissioner Jones said charter schools come under the Field Act if state funds are used for construction. Otherwise they would be covered by the Private School Act; a 1986 law requiring that private schools are constructed to the same standards as public schools. Commissioner Jones said the problem seems to be that local building departments do not enforce those standards nor do they do the same level of plan checking as that done on DSA projects. In many cases, contractors take an old structure, retrofit the building, and change the occupancy.

Commissioner Jones said committee members were disturbed to learn there is an exception allowing URM's to be retrofit to only 75 percent of the standard for ordinary buildings. She noted such buildings call for an extra level of inspection, not a relaxation of standards.

Commissioner Nishinaga pointed out that Governor-elect Schwarzenegger has expressed interest for the safety of children, so it might be an opportune time to build broader support. Mr. McCarthy emphasized the importance of commissioners making themselves available to testify at hearings and visit legislators in person.

Chairman Moy asked who supported the Field Act. Mr. Sepulveda said proponents include some teachers associations and unions.

Mr. McCarthy reported that after the Commission released the AB 16 report on retrofitting existing buildings to provide equivalent pupil safety as Field Act compliant buildings, he, Commissioner Clark, and Commissioner Shapiro met with the Department of Finance representatives to discuss financial benefits. He noted one benefit of the Field Act is that post-event functionality can allow buildings to be used as relief centers, a key point for the administration.

Commissioner Jones suggested asking the Red Cross, OES, FEMA, and the PTA to provide testimony supporting the Field Act.

Commissioner Church emphasized the need to build a broad coalition of support based on not compromising the safety of children in schools. He pointed out that many building contractors and special interests would like to advance projects without proper plan checking and inspection, and there is a potential for conflict of interest.

Commissioner Shapiro noted the major obstacle appears to be the perception of unnecessary cost and cumbersome process. Commissioner Nishinaga recommended gathering data to compare differences in costs. Commissioner Shapiro stated the perception is a myth because studies show the actual differential is about 3 or 4 percent.

Commissioner Beall urged the Commission to express its staunch support for the Field Act and focus on ways of improving the process. He said he was aware of a new community college building in San Jose that was acquired on a long-term lease and built to private-sector standards.

IX. UPDATE ON HOKKAIDO, JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

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Mr. Anderson showed slides depicting damage from the 8.3 magnitude earthquake off Hokkaido, Japan, on September 26, 2003. He said there were landslides, areas of liquefaction, some lateral spreading, and a minor tsunami.

Mr. Anderson pointed out the epicenter on a map. He said there were numerous aftershocks, including one 7.4 magnitude aftershock. Because of the plentiful rain, there were many landslides. Mr. Anderson noted there was damage to a large oil refinery and a fire. He noted there were no fatalities, but two fisherman were reported missing in the tsunami. Mr. Anderson said other damage included a power outage, damage to the potable water system, ceiling failure at the airport, and numerous fires. There was little damage to housing stock.

Mr. Anderson commented that Hokkaido's active hazard mitigation and preparedness program helped reduce damage levels in this earthquake. He said the government responded quickly and drinking water was restored in a short time. The fire response effort was well coordinated, and the two refinery fires were extinguished fairly quickly.

Commissioner Jones pointed out it was not luck, but hard work, that allowed Hokkaido to escape more damage.

Mr. Anderson recommended that the Commission publicize the area's practice drills, preparedness, and mitigation work. He said the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) sent a team to visit the area and look at structural damage. Although little information was available in the local press, an 8.1 magnitude earthquake had been predicted. Mr. Anderson noted that more will be available after EERI completes its study.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XI. MISCELLANEOUS AND GOOD OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Nishinaga requested that his name be added to the PEER Review Committee roster as its chairperson.

Commissioner Celestine Palmer pointed out that she was chairing the Education and Outreach Committee. Commissioner Nishinaga volunteered to serve on the Outreach Committee as well.

At 11:25 a.m., the meeting was recessed for lunch. Chairman Moy reconvened the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

XII. LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

Mr. McCarthy noted the Commission can expect to be scrutinized during the upcoming independent audit of the effectiveness of various government agencies. He recommended contacting Republican legislators and some key Democrats for district office visits to explain the

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Commission's purpose and value. He observed that many legislators have a misconception that the Commission is part of OES, and they do not understand the scope of the Commission's activities.

Mr. McCarthy said the staff and some commissioners recently helped man a booth at a Los Angeles conference and the event provided an opportunity to reach out to members of the public. He suggested that the Commission consider working with OES to develop public service announcements and ad campaigns with celebrity and athlete spokespeople.

Commissioner Manning recommended making use of talented people in the entertainment and PR industry to assist the Commission. He noted representatives from Disney, Warner Brothers, and other print and electronic media companies may be eager to help the Commission in terms of strategic advice and marketing. Commissioner Manning added that the Los Angeles Fire Department found a team of volunteer advisors very helpful in improving its image, and many companies are willing to donate publications, billboard space, and awards. He suggested asking for help.

Mr. McCarthy said Mr. Darrell Young, Department of Conservation, told him about its recycling program and suggested that Disney might be interested in a public safety promotion on earthquakes. He stated he would follow up with Mr. Young and OES, and then work with the staff to explore creative partnerships that would be of mutual benefit to each party.

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission is already involved in a partnership with the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation to develop a small business hazard plan for FEMA.

Commissioner Manning observed that the new governor is likely to be strong on volunteers, and he suggested focusing on using volunteers to provide services without costs.

Mr. McCarthy thanked commissioners for their suggestion. He agreed that partnerships can be winning combinations for everyone involved.

Commissioner Klein observed that reaching out to children is also a way to reach their parents and others. He suggested developing a simple and inexpensive message that can be repeated and reinforced. He noted the emphasis should be on things an average person can do. Commissioner Palmer said she liked that suggestion. Mr. McCarthy agreed. He added that now is the time the Commission needs to think creatively. Commissioner Parker noted the Commission already has a number of good products that should be promoted.

Commissioner Manning commented that there are many high-level executives who would be willing to assist the Commission.

Commissioner Parker suggesting thinking about ways of rewarding volunteerism, such as presenting an award to Disney for assistance in developing best practices.

Commissioner Nishinaga observed that homeowners also like frequent awards for beautifying

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their properties.

Chairman Moy asked how often the staff updates the Web site. Mr. Anderson responded that some sections are updated frequently, such as meeting agendas, new publications, and Commission reports. Chairman Moy suggested looking at updating all sections. He noted the strategic plan should be incorporated.

Ms. Cogan reminded the Commission that the staff is already stretched very thin. She said the receptionist is now responsible for all accounting, and she is also learning how to maintain the Web site.

Mr. McCarthy said he heard a rumor that the state may be moving to a new Web page format.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director