

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
January 13, 2005
State Capitol, Room 444
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Donald R. Parker, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman (arrived at 9:51 a.m.)
Bruce Clark
Don Manning
Lawrence T. Klein
Stan Y. Moy
Daniel Shapiro
Jimmie R. Yee

Members Absent

Lucy Jones, Chairman
Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Mark Church
Lawrence T. Klein
Linden Nishinaga
Celestine Palmer

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Robert Anderson, Staff Geologist
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer
Rebecca Romo, Legislative Intern
Henry Sepulveda, Director of Legislation
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Donald Parker at 9:45 a.m. The roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was not present, with only six commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Parker explained that Chairman Jones had been taken ill and returned to Los Angeles.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Commissioner Parker stated that Chairman Jones had talked about holding a hearing on tsunamis at the Commission's February meeting, and she suggested the Los Angeles Harbor Department facility at San Pedro as a possible location. He said Chairman Jones observed that there is considerable concern recently about the vulnerability of the California coast and the lack of public education about tsunamis. Chairman Jones commented that the financial impact of a major tsunami on the Los Angeles port would be huge, and the threat is even greater in northern California.

Executive Director Richard McCarthy proposed asking Dr. Eddie Bernard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Dr. Costas Synolakis and Dr. Jose Borrero, University of Southern California; and representatives from other states to make presentations. He noted Washington

January 13, 2005

State has a system of sirens and towers, so it might be informative to hear about that. He added that Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Alaska are members of a five-state consortium on tsunamis. Mr. McCarthy suggested dedicating most of the February meeting to the tsunami issue; he said other agenda items will be approval of *The Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Preparedness* and discussion of the Commission's 2005 legislative program.

Commissioner Dan Shapiro noted Hawaii has a strong tsunami program, with signs posted along evacuation routes, warning sirens, and public education. He suggested contacting Crescent City for information about their program as well.

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the information in the meeting packet. He said Senator Feinstein is calling for a study, and Senator Lieberman is advocating an expanded warning system for the west coast.

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Parker welcomed Commissioner Andrew Adelman to the meeting and announced that a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2004

ACTION: Commissioner Bruce Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stan Moy, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the November 18 and December 9 meetings as presented.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Mr. McCarthy reported that funding for the Seismic Safety Commission is included in the governor's proposed budget for 2005-06.

ACTION: No action required.

Update on FEMA Appeal

Mr. Fred Turner reported when Commission representatives met with FEMA officials on December 1 to discuss the appeal, FEMA representatives conceded that errors were made in the 2001 audit. However, they questioned other aspects of the Northridge investigations report accounting, and the staff is in the process of developing responses to those issues.

ACTION: No action required.

California Performance Review (CPR) Update

Meeting Minutes

Mr. McCarthy reported that the Governor's Office sent an evaluation of the CPR report to the Little Hoover Commission on January 10, and that document recommended eliminating over 88 boards and commissions, including the Seismic Safety Commission. Under the governor's proposal, the Seismic Safety Commission's duties would be transferred to the State and Consumer Services Agency. Mr. McCarthy said the Little Hoover Commission has 30 days from the date of receipt to make its recommendations.

ACTION: No action required.

Office Relocation

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission's landlord is unwilling to pay for ADA upgrades, so it appears the Commission may have to relocate when the current lease expires. He noted the lease allows the Commission to move between June, 2006, and January, 2007. He added that staying in the building will be an option only if another state agency tenant comes in with more money.

ACTION: No action required.

Commission Letterhead

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the sample letterhead in the meeting packet. He noted commissioners' names are on the left, so the rest of the page is more open. He welcomed comments and suggestions.

Commissioner Adelman recommended showing the Commission's address in a bigger font.

ACTION: No action required.

V. COMMITTEE TO UPDATE *THE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS*

Commissioner Dan Shapiro presented the latest version of *The Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Preparedness* (HOG). He thanked Mr. Turner and Dr. Guna Selvaduray for their efforts. He noted the document is virtually complete, and he recommended that the commission review it page by page.

ACTION: Direction provided to staff and contractor.

VI. SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Parker drew attention to the Seismic Safety Commission's Annual Report and welcomed comments. Mr. McCarthy said the document was revised to incorporate suggestions made at the last meeting. He noted the report will be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature once approved.

Commissioner Clark commended Executive Assistant Karen Cogan for her work and said he thought the document was well done.

ACTION: Commissioner Manning made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark, that:

The Commission approve the Annual Report.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

VII. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Mr. Henry Sepulveda noted the Legislature has been back in session since January 3, and some new bills are already being introduced.

Mr. Sepulveda reviewed the status of three of the Commission's legislative proposals. The first, to be introduced by Assemblyman Yee, confers immunity on school districts that decide to obtain more detailed information from the Division of the State Architect on the condition of their buildings, as reported in AB 300.

Mr. Sepulveda said a second legislative proposal, also being introduced by Assemblyman Yee, clarifies the standards applicable to charter schools.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the third legislative proposal addresses funds earmarked for a 1991 earthquake evaluation conference; under the bill, any residual funds would be transferred to the 2005-06 budget for the Seismic Safety Commission. He said the Commission's Legislative Advisory Committee recommends that the Commission authorize those funds to be transferred as proposed.

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

The Commission approve the committee's recommendations and authorize the transfer of unused funds as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

Mr. Sepulveda drew attention to the scheduled of legislative visits earlier that week, and he thanked the commissioners who participated. He reported that the staff arranged 54 visits, with three more scheduled for later that day.

Commissioner Parker suggested that commissioners compile their notes on legislative meetings and provide them to the staff for follow-up.

Commissioner Yee observed that many legislators are unaware of the Commission and its activities. He noted Assemblyman Blakeslee is a seismologist, and he suggested that Chairman

Meeting Minutes

Jones talk with him about sponsoring legislation.

Mr. Sepulveda introduced Ms. Rebecca Romo, the Commission's new legislative intern, replacing Ms. Abby Browning. Commissioners welcomed Ms. Romo to the staff.

VIII. UPDATE ON QUAKE '06 ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Mary Lou Zoback, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), provided an update on the 1906 Earthquake Centennial Alliance's activities. She said the effort started about two years ago and has been steadily growing, with over 90 organizations planning special events now.

Dr. Zoback requested assistance from the Seismic Safety Commission in developing a public education pamphlet, and she recommended that the Commission appoint a small group to work with USGS on the pamphlet's contents.

Commissioner Parker thanked Dr. Zoback. He asked if the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) is participating in the activities. Dr. Zoback confirmed EERI's active role, and noted Mr. Fred Turner is representing EERI on the Steering Committee.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission discuss its participation and funding possibilities at the next meeting. He recommended appointing one commissioner and one staff member to assist USGS.

ACTION: No action required.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

X. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF THE MEETING

Commissioner Adelman asked about upcoming meeting dates, and Mr. McCarthy said the staff will contact commissioners by email.

January 13, 2005

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director