

Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
February 10, 2005
State Capitol, Room 444
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Lucy Jones, Chairman
Donald R. Parker, Vice Chair
Mark Church
Bruce Clark
Lawrence T. Klein
Don Manning
Lawrence T. Klein
Linden Nishinaga
Daniel Shapiro
Jimmie R. Yee

Members Absent

Andrew Adelman
Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Stan Y. Moy
Celestine Palmer

Staff Present

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant
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 Chairman Lucy Jones at 9:05 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Jones introduced and welcomed Mr. Rodger Dillon, from Senator Alarcon's office.

Chairman Jones thanked Vice Chair Don Parker for chairing the January meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2005 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

The Commission approve the minutes of the January 13, 2005 meeting as presented.

* Motion carried, 9 - 0.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Richard McCarthy noted the Commission would be adjourning after the meeting for a working lunch at the Commission offices. He said the staff will brief the

Commission at that time on the FEMA appeal and the Governor's reorganization plans.

Budget Update

Commissioner Lawrence Klein reported that the Commission's budget projection are very close to those from the state's accounting office, and expenditures are on track for this fiscal year. He recommended using funds for the Commission's legislative program, enhancements to the Web page, and other items proposed by the staff.

Web Page Statistics

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the staff's compilation of statistics regarding Web page usage. He noted activity has picked up considerably since the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami. Chairman Jones commented that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has seen a similar trend.

Commissioner Yee recommended including a notation that the figures for February reflect only one day of usage.

FEMA Appeal

Mr. McCarthy reported that the staff has been working to develop a concise, clear summary of the issues involved in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appeal, a necessary first step before hiring an expert to format the information in a way that will be clear for FEMA.

ACTION: No action required.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCEC Review Committee

Chairman Jones noted that at the November meeting, the Commission established an ad hoc committee to look at the usefulness of the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) for the state, and she asked about the status of that effort.

Commissioner Bruce Clark reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, at SCEC headquarters.

ACTION: No action required.

VI. SUMATRA-ANDAMAN ISLAND EARTHQUAKE

Chairman Jones provided some background information on the recent Sumatra-Andaman Island earthquake. She stated that this earthquake was expected, and the seismicity of that region is well recognized. Chairman Jones said this strong earthquake, with an estimated magnitude of 9, occurred in a mega-thrust subduction zone, similar to areas along the western coast of the United States. In particular, she noted, places like Humboldt Bay are particularly vulnerable to tsunamis

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generated by giant earthquakes.

Mr. McCarthy proposed scheduling a short business meeting late in the afternoon of Monday, March 14, with a full day of hearings on Tuesday, March 15. He noted a tour of the Los Angeles port facilities has been arranged for the afternoon of March 14.

Kobe Earthquake Anniversary

Chairman Jones invited Commissioner Nishinaga to brief the Commission on his recent visit to Japan.

Commissioner Nishinaga reported that he attended a conference in Japan commemorating the tenth anniversary of the magnitude-6.9 Kobe earthquake. He noted about 6,000 people were killed in the earthquake, and the post-disaster disruption caused serious economic impacts to the entire region. Commissioner Nishinaga said the conference featured a number of international speakers, including social scientists, and workshop sessions on structural engineering, seismology, design codes, seismic networks, hazard mapping, as well as a wide range of social and economic issues. Conference participants took a technical tour of a segment of the surface rupture area. Commissioner Nishinaga showed some slides of conference activities.

Commissioner Nishinaga noted the conference voted to approve three resolutions, one to raise public awareness of earthquake threats, another to promote investigation of feasible solutions and mitigation measures, and a third on fostering multi-disciplinary and international collaborations. He offered to share the conference report once it is available.

ACTION: No action required.

VII. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Mr. Henry Sepulveda referred to his written report in the meeting packet.

Commission-Sponsored Initiatives

Mr. Sepulveda reported that Assemblyman Leland Yee has agreed to introduce a bill regarding seismic improvements to existing public school facilities. He said authors are being sought for legislation to set building standards for private schools and charter schools and to effect a technical cleanup of a Government Code section that will allow unused funds from a 1990 conference to be used for other purposes. Mr. Sepulveda added that he would have more to report on these three items at the March meeting. He noted the deadline for introducing legislation is February 18.

Other Bills of Interest to the Commission

Mr. Sepulveda drew particular attention to AB 162 (Leslie), a bill to remove community colleges from Field Act jurisdiction; HR 4, regarding California's tsunami preparedness; and SB 164 (Speier), a bill to extend the 2008 deadline for hospitals willing to accelerate their 2030 deadline

to 2020. He noted the California Hospital Association is supporting SB 164.

Mr. Sepulveda said the Legislative Advisory Committee will have some recommended positions on bills for the Commission's consideration at the March meeting.

Follow-Up Items from Visits with Legislators

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the staff will be following up on certain items that arose in commissioners' January visits with legislators. He said he, Commissioner Shapiro, and Commissioner Parker met with Senator Chesbro at his Vallejo office on January 21. Senator Chesbro recommended that the Commission work with Senator Figueroa regarding the Governor's reorganization plans, and the staff will be following up on that suggestion.

ACTION: No action required.

VIII. APPROVAL OF REVISED *HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS*

Mr. Fred Turner presented the latest draft of the Commission's revised *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Preparedness*. He said this version incorporates comments made at the last meeting, including providing information on tsunamis, landslides, and dam inundation hazards. He welcomed guidance from the Commission on which photographs should be used to illustrate chimney retrofit options. Mr. Turner stated that the staff recommends that the Commission approve the document at this meeting so it can be released at the Disaster Resistant California Conference in May.

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

The Commission approve the revised Homeowner's Guide as amended.

* Motion carried, 8 - 0 (Commissioner Church absent during voting).

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

X. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF THE MEETING

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 11:48 a.m., the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned to a working business lunch at the Seismic Safety Commission office.

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Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director