



State Of California

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor



Minutes of September 14, 2005 Meeting
The Mission Inn
3659 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California

Lawrence Klein
*Utilities
Vice Chairman*

Dr. Lucy Jones
Seismology

Andrew Adelman
*Cities/Building
Official*

Hon. Richard Alarcon
State Senate

Chris Modrzejewski
Senate Representative

Mark Church
Local Government

Dr. Bruce Clark
Geology

Hon. Carol Liu
State Assembly

Donald Manning
*Assembly
Representative*

Celestine Palmer
Insurance

Daniel Shapiro
*Structural
Engineering*

Keith Wheeler
Emergency Services

Gary McGavin
*Architectural
Planning*

Jeff Sedivec
Fire Protection

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

Members Participating

Lucile Jones, Acting Chair
Andrew Adelman
Don Manning
Gary McGavin
Jeff Sedivec
Daniel Shapiro
Keith Wheeler

Members Absent

Senator Richard Alarcon/Chris Modrzejewski
Bruce Clark
Mark Church
Lawrence T. Klein, Vice Chair
Celestine Palmer

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Robert Anderson, Staff Geologist
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant
Veronica Ramirez, Student Intern
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer
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 Commissioner Lucy Jones at 9:35 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and stated that a quorum was not present.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mayor of Riverside

Commissioner Jones introduced the Honorable Ron Loveridge, Mayor of Riverside, and invited him to address the Commission.

Mayor Loveridge welcomed the Commission to Riverside, a city with a population of about 300,000 at the center of the Inland Empire, a region of about 4 million people. He noted the historic Mission Inn is an important and unique building, as the Commission learned in its tour of the facility.

Mayor Loveridge observed that the New Orleans disaster and its long-range effects have a clear lesson for California, where major earthquakes are going to occur. He emphasized the need to be prepared, and

noted the Seismic Safety Commission plays a prominent role in protecting the safety of the people of California.

Commissioner Andrew Adelman reported that the City of Los Angeles passed a resolution encouraging the Governor to support the bill extending Commission funding. He offered to provide a copy of the resolution and urged Mayor Loveridge and the Riverside City Council to consider adopting a similar measure.

Deaths of Former Commissioners

Commissioner Jones announced that three former commissioners had died since the last meeting, William Peak, Bruce Bolt, and William Waste. Executive Director Richard McCarthy and Mr. Fred Turner described some of the accomplishments of each individual.

Officers and Nominating Committee

Mr. McCarthy noted the Nominating Committee recommended that in the event Commissioner Don Parker was not reappointed to the Commission, the position of chair should be taken by Commissioner Klein, the vice chair.

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

The Commission accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation that the Commission's vice chair assume the office of chair.

* Motion Carried, 7 - 0.

Commissioner Jones asked the Nominating Committee to reconvene to propose a new vice chair, and she requested a recommendation from the committee at the next meeting.

Mission Inn Tour

Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Rick Byrd, structural engineer, Johnson & Nielsen Associates, and the Mission Inn for the September 7 tour of the building.

Lessons from Hurricane Katrina

Commissioner Jones commented that there are a number of strong parallels between the Gulf Coast and California, and the state needs to be ready for a major disaster. She noted FEMA held a preparedness exercise in the summer of 2001 that featured three scenarios: a terrorist attack on New York City, a Category 5 hurricane hitting New Orleans, and a major earthquake in San Francisco. She pointed out that the two of these three events have already happened, and the third is likely. Commissioner Jones suggested that the Commission devote some time later to discussing ways the Seismic Safety Commission can help California learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

New Commissioners

Commissioner Jones formally welcomed Commissioners Gary McGavin, Jeff Sedevic, and Keith Wheeler. She congratulated them on their appointments and asked them to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Sedevic said he has worked as a firefighter/paramedic and been active in urban search and rescue (USAR) activities.

Commissioner McGavin indicated that he served two previous terms on the Commission. He said he works as an architect specializing in school design and represents the disciplines of architecture and planning on the Commission.

Commissioner Wheeler said he had also served on the Commission before. He noted his expertise lies in the area of earthquake preparedness and disaster response.

Commissioner Jones asked what Commission seats were still vacant, and Mr. McCarthy replied that the Commission still needs a soils engineer, local government representative, mechanical engineer, and someone from social services.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 2005 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

The Commission approve the minutes of the July 14, 2005 meeting as presented.

* Motion carried, 5 - 0 - 3 (Commissioners McGavin, Sedevic and Jones abstaining).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Executive Director Richard McCarthy reported that the Commission's budget expenditures appear to be on track. He explained that the Commission compares its own internal projections with accountings provided by Contracted Fiscal Services, a division of the Department of General Services. He said a more detailed report covering the first quarter of the new fiscal year will be available at the next meeting.

Update on FEMA Appeal

Mr. Fred Turner informed the Commission that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responded to the Commission's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on September 6, producing a thick stack of documents. Staff's preliminary review indicates the Commission already has most of the items, and staff noticed that FEMA redacted certain information from some documents. Mr. Turner commented that the FOIA process has many limitations and entails long delays.

Update on Spanish Version of the *Homeowner's Guide*

Mr. McCarthy noted the California Earthquake Authority approved a \$10,000 contract for translating the *Homeowner's Guide* into Spanish. He said a draft has been completed, and Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation, the contractor, expects to have a final version for the Commission's adoption in October.

Mr. Turner advised that the staff is working on a revision of the *Commercial Property Owner's Guide* that uses the new format. He suggested forming a small committee of commissioners to assist the staff in reviewing and refining that draft by year-end.

Commissioners encouraged the staff to develop a press release announcing the availability of the revised *Homeowner's Guide*.

Website Update

Mr. Robert Anderson reported that the Commission's Website had 123,000 hits in August. He noted the Website is now bilingual, and emergency preparedness information has been added.

Budget Change Proposals

Mr. Henry Sepulveda explained that the Department of Finance accepts budget change proposals (BCP's) each fall for items state agencies want to include in their 2006-07 budgets. He said the staff proposes submitting two BCP's on behalf of the Commission: one for \$10,000 to cover the costs of lease renewal or relocation when the Commission's current office space lease expires in May of 2007; and another for expenditures from the California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) settlement for earthquake research activities.

V. LEGISLATION REPORT

Mr. Henry Sepulveda drew attention to his updated report. He noted the legislative session ended on September 9, and there are a number of bills awaiting the Governor's signature or veto.

Commission-Sponsored Bills

Mr. Sepulveda said SB 584 (Blakeslee), a clean-up bill to release old funds, and SB 1054, requiring charter schools to comply with the California Building Code, were signed by the Governor.

Mr. Sepulveda advised that AB 1374 (Liu), the bill to extend the existing sunset date for the Commission's funding arrangement through the Department of Insurance, is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Commissioners agreed that one letter to the Governor signed by all commissioners would be most effective. The Commission asked the staff to contact absent commissioners and obtain their permission to use electronic signatures.

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

The Commission authorize the staff to collect signatures and send the letter to the Governor as proposed.

* Motion carried, 7 - 0.

Commissioner Adelman suggested mentioning the revised *Homeowner's Guide* in the third paragraph of the letter describing the Commission's work. Mr. Sepulveda proposed mentioning the *Homeowner's Guide* and the *Commercial Property Owner's Guide*, and all commissioners agreed.

AB 304 (Hancock)

Mr. Sepulveda said AB 304, authorizing local governments to establish retrofit standards for soft-story, multi-unit residential buildings, was awaiting the Governor's signature.

AB 1046 (Frommer)

Mr. Sepulveda reported that AB 1046, a bill providing funding for hospital retrofit projects, was delayed in the Senate Health Committee, so it will become a two-year bill. He noted the Commission had taken an "oppose unless amended" position because the bill had trigger mechanisms allowing retrofit deadlines to slip if the bond measure was not approved. Mr. Sepulveda said the staff will continue to watch this bill in the next legislative session.

AB 1200 (Laird)

Mr. Sepulveda noted AB 1200, calling for a study of the Delta levee system, was sent to the Governor for signature and is likely to be approved.

VII. EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING BRIEFING (Out of Order)

Commissioner Jones proposed taking this item out of order before the staff and committee reports.

Professor Tom Heaton, Caltech, gave a slide presentation on new technology available for earthquake early warning systems. He discussed strategies for dealing with earthquakes; new emergency management tools, such as shake maps and real-time HAZUS; and earthquake alerting systems and their limitations. Dr. Heaton explained that the amount of warning time depends on the size of the earthquake and its proximity; in general, longer warning periods are possible for larger earthquakes, and less warning time for smaller events.

Dr. Heaton talked about how earthquake warnings can be used to notify people so they can take action to protect vulnerable facilities in schools, hospitals, transportation systems, and elevators. He said cell phone technology might make it possible to notify all users in a certain area that an earthquake is about to occur. He noted the usefulness of an automated warning system depends on the needs of the users, possible mitigation available, and the relative costs and benefits.

Dr. Heaton said a number of foreign countries, including Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Italy, Turkey, and Romania, have implemented some type of earthquake warning system. He advised that if California

wants to consider a warning system, the state needs a reliable data analysis network, broadcast software, and control systems and agencies responsible for implementation.

Dr. Heaton said the strong motion networks in northern and southern California were integrated several years ago to create the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN) system. Two teams are working on real-time analysis for automated data processing, but no software has been developed yet. Dr. Heaton noted that one of the major policy issues for the state will be determining who will issue alerts.

Dr. Heaton cautioned that an early warning system should not be viewed as a panacea. He advocated careful public education and outreach efforts. He observed that the technical capability will soon be realized, so it would be prudent to have policies and funding mechanisms in place, as well as identification of implementation responsibilities.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tsunami Committee Report

Committee Chair Don Parker reported that the Tsunami Committee held four meetings so far, and a draft report is ready. He noted the next meeting is scheduled for September 28 in Oakland. Chief Parker said the committee will be reviewing the draft report at the October meeting, and a final version will be ready by year-end. The report will have about five findings and five recommendations, and the language will be non-technical.

Mr. Henry Reyes showed a copy of the rough draft of the report. He said the committee's goal is to have the final report released on the anniversary of the Sumatran tsunami in December. Mr. Reyes noted the report includes an executive summary, a section on history and background, information on signage, a discussion on the vulnerability of ports and harbors, the Coastal Commission's recommendations, a description of the existing warning system, engineered mitigation options, and findings and recommendations.

VIII. BRIEFING ON SEISMIC RETROFIT OF SAN BERNARDINO INTERCHANGE

Mr. Tim Ross, Brutoco Engineering Construction, gave a slide presentation on a recently completed seismic retrofit project involving the San Bernardino 10/210 freeway interchange. He showed some of the culverts, girders, and supporting boxes. Mr. Ross said the heavy rains last winter slowed down the work. He estimated the construction alone cost \$15 million to \$16 million.

Commissioner Jones observed that the interchange sits on alluvial soil near the San Jacinto Fault, an area undergoing substantial development.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Fluornoy, Save Our Community, Inc., expressed concerns about the lack of disaster planning and seismic review being done by Rosemead and other local jurisdictions. He noted building officials should have standards for seismic sections rather than relying on boilerplate plans. He stated that no Alquist-Priolo reviews are being done before allowing development.

Mr. Fluornoy provided a written set of comments about the Caltrans Local Assistance program, school construction, and four specific bridge projects.

X. CLOSED SESSION/LUNCH RECESS

At 11:56 a.m., the Commission adjourned to a closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)(1): Deborah Hansen v. Seismic Safety commission WCAB Case No. SFO 0451743.

The closed session ended at 12:00 noon., and the Commission recessed for lunch.

XI. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Commissioner Jones reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Commission Funding Strategies

Mr. McCarthy advised commissioners that the Seismic Safety Commission lost some support in the Legislature, in part as a result of the California Performance Review's scrutiny of boards and commissions, in part because of the 7-cent surcharge on policyholders. He recommended that the Commission work to rebuild relationships with legislators. He added that the Commission's visits to the Capitol have been helpful.

Mr. McCarthy said he met with representatives of the Office of the Insurance Advisor, who view the 7-cent insurance fee as an unfair tax, and they propose using the CRAF settlement to fund the Commission in the future. He pointed out CRAF fund uses are strictly limited to earthquake research activities.

Hetch Hetchy Review

Mr. McCarthy noted a report on the Hetch Hetchy project will be coming to the Commission soon. He explained that the Seismic Safety Commission is responsible for determining if any of the proposed changes to the PUC's Hetch Hetchy project will significantly impact seismic safety risk.

Quake '06 Participation

Mr. McCarthy said a mega-conference is being organized for next April in San Francisco to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake. The conference will be held at the Moscone Center, and organizations like Disaster Resistant California, EERI, and others will be participating. Mr. McCarthy noted it might be helpful for the Commission to arrange for key state decision-makers and legislators to participate in panel discussions, or to focus on providing advice to local governments through organizations like the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Fleet Week - October 8 and 9, 2005

Ms. Cogan drew attention to the material in the meeting packet about Fleet Week activities in San Francisco. She said she would be contacting individual commissioners by email for their ideas. She added that Commissioner McGavin already volunteered to attend the event with the staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director