



State of California
Alfred E. Alquist
Seismic Safety Commission
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**Seismic Commission Forms Earthquake Grant
Research Committee to Award California Re-
search Assistance Funds**

The California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) was a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in the late 1990's. Funding for CRAF was derived from negotiated settlements between the Department of Insurance and insurance companies after the Northridge Earthquake. The Attorney General filed a lawsuit in 2000 to freeze CRAF's funds and dissolve the corporation. The parties entered into a Stipulated Judgment whereby CRAF will dissolve and all of its assets will be distributed to the Seismic Safety Commission. The funds will be restricted for research-related earthquake risk reduction projects. The CRAF settlement funds allow the Commission to carry out seismic research for the benefit of the State of California through its mandated earthquake research plan. (*Government Code Section 8899.185*). The Commission appointed Vice Chairman Dennis Mileti, Commissioners Bruce Clark, Lucy Jones, William Petak, Chris Poland, Christopher Rojahn, and Kathleen Webb to the Committee. This Committee will recommend to the full Commission how these funds should be administered and awarded and the funds are expected to be transferred to the Commission in the fall.

**The Commission Revises The
Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan**

The Commission's *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* was approved in January 2007. The revised Plan identified current and proposed seismic safety efforts, goals, and priorities of the State through 2011. Members assigned to the Committee included Commissioners Bruce Clark, Dennis Mileti and Lucy Jones.

The *Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* coordinates the State's mitigation efforts as required by the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1986. The Commission's *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* is the Commission's policy statement describing what actions need to be taken to reduce long-term earthquake risk. It also serves as the State's *Strategic Plan*, the heart of the seismic chapter of the State's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Findings on California Public School Safety

In June 2006, the Commission formed an ad hoc committee to review California public school safety and the Effectiveness of the Field Act. Commonly known as the "Field Act" for its author, Assemblymember Don C. Field from Glendale, the Field Act has governed the design and construction of elementary, secondary, and community college public school buildings (K-14) for nearly 75 years.

The Act took the enforcement of building code requirement for public school buildings out of the hands of local jurisdictions and assigned it to the state. It contains a set of specifications that regulates the construction of public school buildings. Recent attempts have been made to exempt some public schools from Field Act requirements which has triggered the need for the Commission to evaluate it's effectiveness and merits. These attempts are usually accompanied by assertions that equivalent levels of child safety can be accomplished at a lower cost under the proposed legislation. The Commission heard testimony and conducted research to identify the true costs and benefits attributable to Field Act compliance.

The Commission held a series of workshops and the ad hoc committee has held hearings to collect information. The Commission adopted the report on March 8, 2007. A copy of the full report may be found on the Commission's website.

Revision of the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Commission staff have been working with OES staff and other stakeholders in preparing the seismic portion of the State's Enhanced Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan is required under the Stafford Act of 2000 to be updated every three years. This year California is submitting an enhanced version of the plan in order to qualify for additional mitigation funds once it is approved by FEMA. On March 8, 2007, the Commission appointed an ad hoc committee for this effort. Members include Vice Chairman Dennis Mileti, and former Commissioner Donald Parker, Vallejo Fire Chief. The Commission adopted the Committee's recommendations in April 2007. Commission comments were submitted to OES.

Commission Reviews the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center

The Commission formed a review committee during the Fall of 2006. The review covered years 2003 through 2006. The Commission's PEER Review Committee was chaired by Commissioner Arul Arulmoli and co-chaired by former Commissioner Linden Nishinaga and members included Vice Chairman Mileti, Commissioner Shapiro, and Craig Comartin, President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. The committee met with key PEER staff at the University of California, Berkeley, the home of PEER, and adopted their final report on March 8, 2007. The six-month effort that reviewed PEER's years 7 through 9 performance culminated in the issuance of this report. The Commission's review found that PEER produced over 300 products that directly benefit and reduce the earthquake risk to the State of California. The report is available on the Commission's website.

The Commission Visits the Central Valley

On April 12, 2007, the Commission held a Commission meeting in Lodi, California. The purpose of the meeting was to focus on the seismic vulnerability of the central valley, hear public officials on emergency operations and preparedness, and fatality planning. Along with these meeting topics, the Commission recognized the Northwest Training Center in Stockton, for their research and training efforts in seismic retrofit.

"It is important to remember that all of California is vulnerable to earthquakes – it's not just a San Francisco or Los Angeles problem," stated Chairman Gary McGavin. *"The Central Valley has the second highest seismic zone rating in the country. We need all Californian's to be aware of the seismic risk and to prepare for disasters. The Central Valley is no exception."* Highlighted Speakers for the April 12th Commission Meeting were:

Dr. Michael Reichle, California Division of Mines and Geology, provided an Overview of Geologic Risk in Central Valley; Mr. Ronald Baldwin, Central Valley Emergency Operations Overview, OES; Robert Gerber of OES gave a presentation on Fatality Planning in California.

Education and Outreach Public Survey

Through Vice Chairman Mileti, the Commission is working with the Governor's Office (through the Office of Emergency Services, California Volunteers, and the Office of the First Lady) as well as other groups, to address public education needs to foster household mitigation and preparedness. This effort included conceptualizing a state-of-the-art survey of California households to provide a quality baseline of household readiness throughout the state, and campaign design needs to create more effective household education efforts in the state. The questionnaire will be translated into Spanish also. Incentives in the amount of \$20 gift certificates to Target, Barnes and Noble, or Wal-mart or contributions to a charity are provided to all respondents who complete the interview. A portion of the project will be funded through the Commission's new California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) in various phases working in concert with the above mentioned organizations.

A final report will include recommendations for effective future efforts to increase household preparedness for all hazards and household mitigation for earthquakes as well as a final executive summary.

Newsletter Contributors:

Editor: Karen Cogan, Public Education & Outreach

Newsletter Contributors:

Richard McCarthy - Executive Director,

Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer,

Sue Celli, Executive Secretary

Henry Reyes - Senior Engineer

Bob Anderson - Senior Geologist

Larry Rillera, Legislation and Special Projects

New Commissioners Appointed in 2007

In January 2007, the Senate Pro Tem appointed Senator Elaine Alquist and the Assembly Speaker appointed Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee to the Commission. Representatives from three additional Commission seats were added effective January 1, 2007: The State Architect, Building Standards Commission, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Meet our new commissioners:

William Chubb, 49, of Newbury Park, has worked for AT&T, where he currently holds the position of vice president of service operations south. Mr. Chubb has also held the positions of vice president of special services from 2000 to 2004; vice president of network operations from 1997 to 2000; and manager network services from 1983 to 1996. Prior to that, he was project engineer for the Arabian American Oil Company from 1979 to 1983. He previously served as chair for AT&T's Northern California and Southern California Emergency Operations Centers, where he coordinated the company's response to earthquakes, fires, civil disturbances and terrorist threats. Mr. Chubb is a decline-to-state. He represents Utilities on the Commission.

Mark Church, 56, of Burlingame, has served on the Commission since 2001. Mr. Church has also served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing District One since 2001 and an attorney at the law offices of Church and Associates since 1982. Previously, he served on the Millbrae City Council from 1995 to 1996 and was mayor from 1997 to 1998. Church is a member of the State Bar of California, the San Mateo County Bar Association and the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Church is a Democrat. He represents Local Government on the Commission.

Sharron Leon, 55, of Carmichael, has worked for California Volunteers, where she currently holds the position of director of disaster and emergency management. Previously, Ms. Leon was acting director of disaster and emergency management and assistant director of disaster and emergency management for California Volunteers. Prior to joining California Volunteers, she served at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) from 1997 to 2006. Ms. Leon held several positions with OES including program manger and senior emergency services coordinator. Earlier, she served seven years at the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Ms. Leon is a Democrat.

Gary McGavin, 58, of Redlands, has served on the Commission since 2005 and previously served on the Commission from 1991 to 1999. Mr. McGavin has also served as an associate professor of architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona since 1999 and as an architect in private practice since 1979. From 1973 to 1979, he served as a geologist for Wyle Laboratories, a seismic design and vibration firm. Mr. McGavin is a member of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the American Institute of Architects and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing. McGavin is a Democrat and represents Architectural Planning on the Commission.

Bradley Mitzelfelt, 39, of Wrightwood, has been appointed to the Seismic Safety Commission. He has served on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors since January 2007, where he represents District One. From 2000 to 2006, Mitzelfelt was chief of staff to San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus. Prior to that, he served as deputy director for the Building Industry Association Southern California Baldy View Chapter from 1994 to 2000 and was a field representative for Assemblymember Kathleen Honeycutt from 1993 to 1994. From 1998 to 2001, Mitzelfelt served as a member of the San Bernardino County Fair Board of Directors. He served as a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Marine Corps from 1986 to 1991. Mitzelfelt is a Republican and represents County Government on the Commission.

Ali Sadre, 51, of La Jolla, has been a structural engineer and project manager for the engineering consulting firm, EsGil Corporation. In this position, Mr. Sadre performs review and analysis of the structural design and building plans for compliance with the Uniform Building Code and Title 24 life-safety, structural and seismic provisions. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers Association of California and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. Mr. Sadre is a Republican and represents Structural Engineering on the Commission.

Michael Stevens, 45, of Novato, has worked for the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, where he holds the position of senior director of underwriting and oversees catastrophe management for personal insurance. Mr. Stevens previously worked for the California State Automobile Association from 1999 to 2001, where he held the positions of director of underwriting operations, underwriting operations manager II and manager of underwriting operations. Mr. Stevens previously was personal lines underwriting manager for Allstate Insurance from 1994 to 1999. Stevens is a Republican and represents Insurance on the Commission.

Kenneth Cooley, 54, of Rancho Cordova, has served on the Rancho Cordova City Council since first being elected in 2002 and previously served as Mayor for the City of Rancho Cordova in 2005. Additionally, Mr. Cooley has served as counsel for the State Farm Insurance Company since 1991. He previously served as chief counsel for the State Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance from 1988 to 1991. Prior to that, Mr. Cooley was vice president and legislative counsel for the California Land title Association from 1987 to 1988 as well as chief of staff to California Assemblymember Louis J. Papan from 1977 to 1985. Mr. Cooley is a Democrat and represents Cities Government on the Commission.

Donald Parker, 64, of Danville, previously served on the Commission from 2002 to 2005. He has more than 40 years experience in the fire protection field and currently serves a fire chief for the City of Vallejo Fire Department. Parker previously worked for the City of Oakland Fire Department from 1966 to 1999 serving in several positions including assistant fire chief and battalion chief. He is a member of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute and California Fire Chiefs Association. He is a Republican and represents Fire Protection on the Commission.