
**State of California
Alfred E. Alquist
Seismic Safety Commission**



Annual Report for 2006



California Seismic Safety Commission
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CSSC 2007-01

Table of Contents

Transmittal Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger and Members of the State Legislature	
Mission Statement & Vision Statement	1
Commission Membership.....	1
Commission Staff.....	2
Seismic Safety Commission Role, Responsibilities, and Ongoing Activities	2
Seismic Safety Legislative Summary for 2006	4
Governor Appointments Officers Elected and Vacancies.....	5
Commission Adds Members and is Restructured on January 1, 2007.....	6
Commission is Renamed The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission.....	6
Commission Forms Ad Hoc Committee to Review The Field Act.....	6
California Research Assistance Fund is Entrusted to the Commission.....	7
Commission Reviews the San Francisco PUC’s Water System Improvement Program ...	7
Commission Reports on Status of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings	7
Commission Revises the <i>Commercial Property Owner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety</i>	8
Commission Begins Review of Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center.....	8
Commission Partners with Enlacé Spanish Yellow Pages.....	8
Commission Moves Forward with Revising the Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan.....	8
Commission Participates in Revision of California’s Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.....	9
Progress Report on the <i>California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan</i>	9
Commission Releases Report <i>California’s Emergency Response to a Major Earthquake</i>	9
Commission Releases 100 Year Time Line of Seismic Safety Legislation.....	10
Comprehensive National Solution to Natural Catastrophes.....	10
Commission Joins Western State Seismic Policy Council.....	10
State Architect Presents Annual Report to the Commission.....	11
Commission Recognizes Services of Cynthia Judy, Golden State Reporting	11
Public Education, Outreach, and Conference participation for 2006.....	12
Presenters Before the Commission in 2006.....	14
Commission Budget Summary.....	16
Vision and Projects for 2007	17
A Tribute to Senator Alfred E. Alquist	18



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Gary McGavin, AIA
*Architectural Planning
Chairman*

April 16, 2007

Dennis Mileti
*Social Services
Vice-Chair*

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
Members of the California State Legislature

Lawrence Klein
Utilities

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger and Members of the State Legislature:

Dr. Lucy Jones
Seismology

The Seismic Safety Commission is pleased to present its Annual Report as required by Government Code §8870.1. The mission of the Seismic Safety Commission is to provide decision makers and the general public with cost-effective recommendations to reduce earthquake losses and expedite recovery. This report highlights the accomplishments of the Seismic Safety Commission in 2006, which include:

Hon. Elaine Alquist
State Senate

Senate Representative

Hon. Mark Church
Local Government

- Reviewed the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Water System Improvement Program (WSIP);

Dr. Bruce Clark
Geology

- Released report updating California's Unreinforced Masonry Buildings;
- Revised the Commission's *Commercial Property Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*;
- Established the Earthquake Grant Research Program;
- Established an ad hoc committee to review the California Field Act;
- Established an ad hoc committee to revise the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*.

Hon. Sam Blakeslee
State Assembly

Assembly Representative

Celestine Palmer
Insurance

The Seismic Safety Commission, working with the federal government, state agencies, local governments, business, industry, and individuals, has provided leadership and supported actions to reduce losses and speed recovery when earthquakes strike California. We must never be complacent about the threat and risk of damage to property and loss of life from earthquakes to California and must remain committed to applying cost-effective and innovative solutions to reduce the State's risk before the next earthquake strikes.

Daniel Shapiro
Structural Engineering

Keith Wheeler
Emergency Services

Jeff Sedivec
Fire Protection

Arul Arulmoli
Soils Engineer

Sincerely,

Hon. Jim Wattenburger
County Government

Gary McGavin, Chairman

Andrew Adelman
City Building Official

Dr. Dennis Mileti, Vice Chairman

Henry Renteria
*Office of Emergency
Services*

David Thorman
State Architect

Dave Walls
*Building Standards
Commission*

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director

Mission Statement

To provide decision makers and the general public
with cost-effective recommendations to reduce earthquake losses
and expedite recovery from damaging earthquakes.

Vision Statement

To provide leadership in implementing and achieving the goals and objectives in the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*, including, to advance learning about earthquakes and risk reduction in both the short and long term, advance the earthquake resistant designs of buildings and other important structures, and advance the preparedness and emergency response systems to earthquakes.

Commission Membership

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Gary McGavin, Chairman | <i>Architectural Planning</i> |
| 2. Dr. Dennis Mileti, Vice Chairman | <i>Social Services</i> |
| 3. Assemblywoman Carol Liu
Donald Manning, <i>Representative</i> | <i>State Assembly</i> |
| 4. Senator Richard Alarcon
Saeed Ali, <i>Representative</i> | <i>State Senate</i> |
| 5. Andrew Adelman | <i>Cities/Building Official</i> |
| 6. Dr. Arul Arulmoli | <i>Geotechnical Engineering</i> |
| 7. Honorable Mark Church
<i>Supervisor, San Mateo County</i> | <i>Local Government</i> |
| 8. Dr. Bruce Clark | <i>Geology</i> |
| 9. Dr. Lucile M. Jones | <i>Seismology</i> |
| 10. Lawrence Klein | <i>Public Utilities</i> |
| 11. Celestine Palmer | <i>Insurance</i> |
| 12. Jeff Sedivec | <i>Fire Protection</i> |
| 13. Daniel Shapiro | <i>Structural Engineering</i> |
| 14. Honorable James Wattenburger
<i>Supervisor, Mendocino County</i> | <i>County Government</i> |
| 15. Keith Wheeler | <i>Emergency Services</i> |
| 16. Vacant | <i>City Government</i> |
| 17. Vacant | <i>Mechanical Engineering</i> |

Richard J. McCarthy, *Executive Director*
Robert Anderson, *Senior Engineering Geologist*
Sue Celli, *Executive Secretary and Office Manager*
Karen Cogan, *Administrative Manager, Annual Report Editor*
Veronica Ramirez, *Legislative Student Assistant*
Henry Reyes, *Structural Engineer (Special Projects)*
Fred Turner, *Senior Structural Engineer*
Larry Rillera, *Legislation and Special Projects*

Seismic Safety Commission Role, Responsibilities and Ongoing Activities

The California Seismic Safety Commission was established in 1975 to advise the Governor, Legislature, state and local agencies, and the public about strategies to reduce earthquake risk (Government Code §8870, et seq.). The Commission is an independent body composed of 17 commissioners chosen for their technical expertise and experience. The Governor appoints 15 commissioners and the Senate and the Assembly each choose a representative from their respective memberships. The Commission investigates earthquakes, reports on earthquake-related issues, and evaluates and recommends to the Governor and Legislature policies needed to reduce earthquake risk. To ensure a coordinated framework for establishing earthquake safety policies and programs in California, the Commission:

- Uses the expertise and experience of commissioners and stakeholders throughout the state in earthquake-related fields, to review, evaluate, and translate technical information.
- Makes recommendations to propose, develop, and shape earthquake safety policies;
- Coordinates the State's mitigation efforts through publication and promotion of the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* as required by the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1986. This regularly-updated five-year plan fills several needs:
 - (1) It serves as the State's policy statement describing what actions need to be taken to reduce earthquake risk are current;
 - (2) It serves as the State's strategic plan, guiding the executive and legislative branches with overall implementation strategies and priorities for seismic safety; and
 - (3) Maintains and updates the seismic portion of the State's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan thereby allowing the State to remain eligible for federal disaster relief funds.
- Responds promptly after earthquakes to gather information, support emergency response efforts, improve communications, and recommend policy changes to apply lessons learned from these events;
- Creates and directs specialized committees of experts from the private and academic sectors and representatives of state and local government agencies to investigate specific policy areas and recommend regulatory changes and legislation to the full Commission and Legislature for action;

- Oversees the Strong Motion Instrumentation Advisory Committee (SMIAC) which was established by law to advise the California Geological Survey in the operation and goals of the instrumentation program;
- Exercises leadership in seismic safety issues by conducting public hearings on earthquake and tsunami-related issues of statewide importance;
- Offers guidance to increase effectiveness and promote application of loss reduction policies and techniques;
- Educates professionals and the general public about earthquake risk and how to manage that risk through publications and development and distribution of non-technical guides to help homeowners, building owners, and business owners;
- Establishes and maintains relationships with boards, commissions, departments, agencies, and other public and private organizations to implement policies to improve seismic safety;
- Promotes applications of research findings and sponsors training programs to improve construction in the State from the planning stage to ongoing building code enforcement;
- Serves on the Hospital Building Safety Board that counsels the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development on hospital seismic safety improvements;
- Serves as a state representative in the Division of the State Architect Advisory Board on school safety issues;
- Serves on the advisory committee for the California Earthquake Authority;
- Advises the Insurance Commissioner on earthquake loss reduction issues;
- Responds to legislation on requests from the Governor; and
- Participates in an advisory capacity in certain seismically related programs.

The Commission sponsored one bill in 2006.

COMMISSION-SPONSORED BILLS

SB 1278 (Alquist) – SB 1278 modifies the membership of the Seismic Safety Commission by adding three new Commissioners, one each representing the Office of Emergency Services, the Division of the State Architect, and the Building Standards Commission. This bill also renames the Commission “The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission” and places it within the State and Consumer Services Agency.

OTHER BILLS

AB 1632 (Blakeslee)- Directs the California Energy Commission, in consultation with the Commission and the California Geological Survey, to prepare a report evaluating the vulnerability of power plants to major seismic events.

AB 1906 (Blakeslee) – Would have directed the Department of Conservation to develop updated earthquake scenarios by 2013.

AB 2852 (Nava) – Would have required the Office of Emergency Services to establish a tsunami hazard mitigation program to maintain tsunami preparedness. This bill would create the California Tsunami Steering Committee, which includes the Seismic Safety Commission, the Office of Emergency Services, CGS, Caltrans, DP&R, the Coastal Commission, and representatives from coastal counties and port districts.

ACR 121 (Blakeslee) – Authorizes continued study, preparation, and support for future earthquake response. This Resolution supported the 2006 Centennial Anniversary and San Francisco Mega-Conference.

SB 1290 (Ducheny) – Authorizes community college buildings constructed, modified, or expanded after January 1, 2007 to comply with either the Field Act or the California Building Code.

AB 1809 (Committee on Budget) secures Commission through June 2009.

H.R. 4366 – Proposes a comprehensive All-Hazards Insurance policy plan entitled “Consumer Hurricane Earthquake Loss Plan (HELP) Fund” and administered through the U.S. Treasury. This bill is currently in the House Committee on Financial Services.

Appointments to the Commission

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed new Commissioners:

In May 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed James Wattenburger of Ukiah to the Seismic Safety Commission. He has served as a Mendocino County Supervisor representing the 2nd District since 2005. Commissioner Wattenburger previously served as a member of the Ukiah City Council from 1988 to 1996. He recently retired from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection after 32 years of service, retiring as a fire battalion chief in 2004.

Commissioner Andrew Adelman of La Crescenta was reappointed to the Seismic Safety Commission in May 2006. He has served as general manager of the Department of Building and Safety for the City of Los Angeles since 1997. Commissioner Adelman previously served as the chief building official for the City of San Jose from 1992 to 1997. He is a member of the Structural Engineers Association of California and has previously served on the California Building Officials Seismic Safety Commission.

Commission appointments require Senate confirmation. Compensation is \$100 per Commission meeting (typically monthly) and travel reimbursement.

New Officers Installed

In 2006, the Commission elected Gary McGavin as Chairman, Dennis Mileti as Vice Chairman. Chairman McGavin represents architectural planning and Commissioner Mileti represents social services. Their terms as Chair and Vice Chair are approximately one year.

Vacancies Remaining as of December 2006

As of December 2005, two positions remain vacant on the Commission:

- Cities Government
- Mechanical Engineering

The Commission Adds Members and is Restructured on January 1, 2007

With the passage of SB 1278 (Alquist) in 2006, the Commission will modify the membership by adding three new Commissioners, one each representing the Office of Emergency Services, the Division of the State Architect, and the Building Standards Commission. This bill places the Commission within the State and Consumer Services Agency.

The Commission is Renamed *The Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission*

With the passage of SB 1278 (Alquist), on January 1, 2007, the Commission is officially renamed after its founder, Senator Alfred E. Alquist. Senator Alquist, 97, of Santa Clara passed away on March 27, 2006. He was responsible for the creation of the State Seismic Safety Act, which established the Commission in 1975. The Commission is honored to serve out his vision and legacy on a vast array of seismic safety issues for California. His accomplishments and passion for the safety of the public were tremendous. He is directly responsible for saving lives in California and around the world. He was our champion for earthquake safety.

The Commission Forms Ad Hoc Committee to Review California Public School Safety and the Field Act

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 law has governed the design and construction of elementary, secondary, and community college public school buildings (K-14) for nearly 75 years. The Field Act was one of the first pieces of construction-related legislation triggered by the Long Beach earthquake of 1933. The Act took the enforcement of building code requirements 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 review 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. These competing assertions have triggered the need for the Commission’s evaluation.

The Commission has been taking testimony and may be conducting research to isolate and identify the true costs and benefits attributable to Field Act compliance. In addition, a range of recommendations will be provided to improve the Field Act process so as to maximize the Benefit/Cost ratio. Some of the topics to be explored in Commission review include: costs for compliance; source of delays; remedial efforts currently under way; additional remedial measures that may be needed; and performance of a Field Act school building vs. a building designed and constructed under the California Building Code or other more recently proposed standards.

The Commission is holding a series of workshops and the ad hoc committee is holding hearings to collect more information. The Commission is expected to adopt the report in the first quarter of 2007.

California Research Assistance Fund is Entrusted to the Commission

The California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that was 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 entrusted to the Seismic Safety Commission. The funds will be restricted for research-related earthquake-risk-reduction projects. The CRAF settlement funds (\$6.4 million) allow the Commission to carry out seismic research for the benefit of the State of California through its mandated earthquake research plan. (Government Code §8899.185). The funds will be administered and awarded through the Commission's Earthquake Grant Research Program.

The Commission Reviews the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Water System Improvement Program (WSIP)

Under AB 1823 (Chapter 841, 2002) the Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) is required to review all changes made to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC's) plans for improvements to the Hetch Hetchy water delivery system that may significantly impact seismic safety risk. The Commission appointed an ad hoc committee that reviewed the proposed changes and provided a draft report to the full Commission at the June 2006 meeting. The Commission adopted the ad hoc committee's review of the project's potential seismic safety impacts. The Commission submitted their review to the SFPUC, the Governor, and the Legislature in March 2006. Any additional changes to the Program will require further Commission review. Members of the ad hoc committee were Commissioners Larry Klein, Daniel Shapiro, and Bruce Clark. The Commission provided five findings and six future considerations within the review. You can read the findings in detail at the Commission's website.

The Commission Reports on Status of California's Unreinforced Masonry Buildings

In 1986, the State passed a law requiring local governments in the highest seismic regions of California to inventory Unreinforced Masonry (URM) buildings in their jurisdictions, establish an earthquake loss reduction program, and report progress to the Seismic Safety Commission. Periodically, the Commission surveys local government progress and sends a status report to the Legislature along with recommendations.

The Commission adopted its 2006 Report to the Legislature at the November Commission meeting. In summary, the level of compliance with this law has been quite high. Ninety-eight percent of the buildings are now in mitigation programs. Seventy percent of the 26,100 URM buildings have been retrofitted or demolished. Significant progress has occurred yet many local government URM programs remain ineffective in reducing future earthquake losses.

The report summarizes the status of local government and building owner efforts to comply with this law. The Commission continues to recommend mandatory strengthening to local governments as the most effective URM loss reduction program. Voluntary strengthening has not been as effective. The Commission also recommended that local government provide incentives to encourage owners to retrofit.

The Commission Revises the *Commercial Property Owner's Guide To Earthquake Safety*

The Commission released the revised *Commercial Property Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* in July. Members of the Committee assigned to update the Guide were Commissioners Gary McGavin, Arul Arulmoli, Daniel Shapiro, and Andrew Adelman. The format of the Guide was changed to resemble the Commission's *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*. New material on non-structural components and furnishings and some general updates throughout the guide were included.

The Commission Begins Review of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center

The Commission formed a review committee during the fall of 2006. The review will cover years 2003 through 2006. The Commission's PEER Review Committee is chaired by Commissioner Arul Arulmoli and co-chaired by former Commissioner Linden Nishinaga and members include Commissioners Shapiro and Mileti and Craig Comartin, President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. The committee has met with key PEER staff at the University of California, Berkeley, the new home of PEER, and will finish its report by March 2007.

Commission Partners with Enlacé Spanish Yellow Pages

The Seismic Safety Commission partnered with Enlacé Spanish Yellow Pages in the spring of 2006. Enlacé is the largest distributed Spanish business directory in California. The Commission was afforded an opportunity to provide three full pages of emergency seismic safety information at the front of the directory at a substantial savings. Two separate distributions to the Sacramento and Northern California area and the San Francisco Bay Area were completed. Enlacé also agreed to distribute copies of the Commission's Spanish *Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety* at Chamber of Commerce meetings and exhibits at which they attend.

The Commission Moves Forward with Revising the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*

The Commission's *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* is currently being revised. The revised Plan will identify current and proposed seismic safety efforts, goals, and priorities of the State through 2011.

The *Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* coordinates the State's mitigation efforts as required by the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1986. The *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* is the State's policy statement describing what actions need to be taken to reduce long-term earthquake risk. It serves as the State's *Strategic Plan*, guiding the executive and legislative branches with overall implementation strategies and priorities for seismic safety. It also serves as a portion of California's federally required hazard mitigation plan for earthquakes, preserving the State's eligibility to apply for federal disaster relief funds after major earthquakes. The revised Plan is due in the spring of 2007.

The Commission Participates in Revision of California's *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Commission staff have been working with OES staff and other stakeholders in preparing the seismic portion of the State's 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 the enhanced plan is approved by FEMA. Staff will be working with OES and other stakeholders (most notably the California Geological Survey) through November 2007 on this effort.

Progress Report on the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*

The Commission maintains the *Progress Report for the Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan*. This report gauges the progress of all the initiatives contained within the *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan, 2002 - 2006*. In 2006, some examples of progress made to be included in the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan are:

- Updates on building code changes, jurisdictions, and retrofit costs relating to unreinforced masonry buildings;
- Proposition 1D and its affect on community colleges;
- Mitigation efforts of existing buildings;
- Updates in Utilities and Transportation.

The Commission plans on incorporating these changes and others into *Progress Report* when resources become available. The *Progress Report* is available on the Commission's website at www.seismic.ca.gov.

The Commission Releases Report *California's Emergency Response to a Major Earthquake*

The Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Advisory Committee of the Seismic Safety Commission formed again to revisit the issues and recommendations presented in the original 2003 Report and to include responses to recent disasters such as local mudslides, flooding, mass transportation accidents, the 2004 Southeast Asia Tsunami, and the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricanes. The report, *California's Emergency Response to a Major Earthquake*, provides findings and recommendations and is available on the Commission's website. Members of the Committee were: Donald Manning (Commissioner), Jeff Sedivec (Commissioner), Donald Parker, Jim Hone, Charley Hurley, Jim Pearson, Kevin Southerland, Jeff Metzinger, Mark Hoffman, John Tripp, Edward Bushman, Dave Lesh, Mike McGroarty Robert Curry, and John McKently.

The Commission Releases 100 Year Time Line

Seismic Safety Commissioner Dennis Mileti organized and arranged for a grant from the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), to create a time line featuring the progression of earthquake safety in California from 1906 through 2005. Claire B. Rubin and Associates, a disaster research-consulting firm, performed the work. Ms. Rubin's firm pioneered a series of disaster-related charts which were used for educational and training tools. The Commission's timeline identifies all of California laws, regulations, policies, programs, and organizations directed toward seismic safety that were created in the last 100 years. The timeline was a big success and was distributed to all attendees at the 100 Anniversary Conference in San Francisco. To view *100 Years of Seismic Safety Legislation in California* visit the Commission's website at www.seismic.ca.gov.

The Commission Conveys Support to a Comprehensive National Solution to the Threat of Natural Catastrophes

At the April 2006 meeting, Mr. James Lee Witt, former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, appeared before the Commission asking for support of HR 4366 - a comprehensive national solution to the threat of natural catastrophes.

Since America has experienced personal tragedy and economic devastation of natural disasters which has resulted in loss of human life and adverse economic consequences, the Commission encourages Americans to take responsibility for protecting their families and properties, and for Congress to establish a natural disaster plan that builds upon the solid foundation of state regulation, maximizing the role of the private market, encouraging personal safety and responsibility, recognizing the important role of mitigation, and produces a comprehensive solution to the threat of natural catastrophes for the benefit of all Americans.

The Commission Formally Joins Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC)

At the March 9, 2006 Commission meeting, Ms. Patricia Sutch, Executive Director of WSSPC, appeared before the Commission to formally invite the Commission to become members of the Council. WSSPC's mission is to develop, recommend, and support seismic policies and programs through the western region. Ms. Sutch explained that the organization is an earthquake consortium funded by FEMA with the goal of reducing earthquake losses by facilitating meetings and providing forums where people can exchange information and share ideas about programs. WSSPC held two meetings with state seismic boards in recent years and decided that it would be beneficial to the organization to invite all State boards and commissions to join. There are no membership fees and WSSPC will pay some travel expenses for attending the annual conference. The Commission agreed unanimously to join WSSPC and looks forward to participating in its next annual conference.

The California State Architect Presents Annual Report to the Commission

State Architect David Thorman appeared before the Seismic Safety Commission at the March 2006 Meeting. Mr. Thorman said his goals for the Division of the State Architect (DSA) include providing better services with more timely, consistent, and accurate plan reviews; filling critical staff vacancies; revitalizing communications with stakeholders; collaborating with community colleges; launching the DSA Academy to train staff and consultants, and provide resources for others; continuing the excellence program; and working on amendments and code updates in preparation for California's adoption of the 2006 International Building Code. As longer-term goals, Mr. Thorman identified fully electronic offices, balanced resources and workload, and a statewide-built environmental policy.

The State Architect reports annually to the Seismic Safety Commission in conformance with requirements under the Seismic Safety Act.

The Commission Recognizes Service of Court Reporter Cynthia Judy

At the March 2006 Commission meeting, Ms. Cynthia Judy was recognized by the Seismic Safety Commission for her 20 years of outstanding service in recording, transcribing, and summarizing the monthly Commission meetings and hearings. The Commission presented Ms. Judy with an engraved desk clock as a small token of appreciation for her enormous dedication and talent. The Commission has relied on her services in creating a thorough public record of all its meetings and hearings. Ms. Judy has the special ability to translate technical language into minutes that are easily understood.

Ms. Judy provides reporting services to a number of government and private business clients. In addition, she has a California law degree and does legal consulting as time permits.

To better engage local governments in statewide policy development and to provide an opportunity for the Commission to exchange important information with local residents and officials, the Commission visited several communities in 2006. Following are some of the Commission's outreach activities for 2006.

**Staff and Commissioners Participate in the 100-Year Anniversary
Conference of the San Francisco Earthquake
San Francisco, California**

San Francisco was forever changed by the massive earthquake and fires that struck early in the morning on April 18, 1906. One hundred years later, individuals from around the world came together in San Francisco to commemorate the disaster and recovery, review what we have learned, and discuss what we can do to further prepare. More than 4,000 were in attendance. The conference which was timed to the centennial of San Francisco's 1906 earthquake, focused on California, however, and the lessons and policies learned related to quake-sensitive regions worldwide. Governor Schwarzenegger kicked off the conference with his supportive speech about California's commitment to Seismic Safety.

**Vice Chairman Mileti Addresses Caltrans Conference on Response and Recovery
Los Angeles, California**

On October 17, 2006, Caltrans held a two-part conference entitled, *Caltrans Response & Recovery Conference*. The conference brought together transportation managers, emergency planners, and first responders for two days of lessons learned and tabletop exercises, and to focus on the critical role of mobility during disaster events. In particular, transit systems large and small need to be prepared for the hazards they face. Caltrans' goal is to ensure that, if faced with an emergency, transit staff and transportation managers respond correctly and work effectively with traditional first responders. Vice Chairman Dennis Mileti's topic: *Mega-quake Policy and Action Needs: Lessons from Katrina*. He highlighted the need for agencies in the state to distinguish between readiness for the types of earthquakes the State has experienced and a great earthquake and the innovations in emergency preparedness that might be needed were such an approach to be adopted.

In the coming months, Caltrans is expected to release new Transportation Planning Guidelines, shaped by the work gleaned from the Caltrans Response and Recovery Conference.

Commission Commemorates the 35th Anniversary of the Sylmar Earthquake Los Angeles, California

At the February 9, 2006 meeting, the Seismic Safety Commission recognized the 35th anniversary of the San Fernando Earthquake. Invited experts were present to examine and discuss the advances in seismology, earthquake engineering, and emergency response since the earthquake and the challenges that still lay ahead for California.

On the morning of February 9, 1971 (6:00 a.m. PST) the 6.5-magnitude San Fernando earthquake rocked the northern San Fernando Valley near Sylmar. Seismologists refer to the quake officially as the San Fernando earthquake since the earthquake ruptured a segment of the San Fernando fault along the San Gabriel Mountains. It was referred to as the ‘Sylmar Quake’ by local media outlets because the worst damage was to the Olive View Medical Center and the neighboring Veteran’s Administration Hospital, both located in Sylmar. The San Fernando earthquake claimed 65 lives, caused more than a half billion dollars in damage, destroyed two hospitals and a freeway interchange, and damaged the Lower Van Norman Dam.

Among the speakers at the February 9th Commission meeting were representatives from U.S. Geological Survey, the Southern California Earthquake Center, Youssef and Associates, UCLA Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center, Applied Technology Council, Seismic Warning Systems, Los Angeles County, and the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness.

Through these presentations, individuals remembered the San Fernando earthquake and provided expert opinions and discussions on advances in hazard assessment, earthquake engineering, and partnerships in emergency management that will help mitigate future losses.

The Commission meeting was held in Los Angeles City Hall, John Ferraro City Council Chambers.

Vice Chairman Mileti Addresses the Little Hoover Commission Sacramento, California

In an effort to review emergency preparedness in California, the State’s Little Hoover Commission (LHC) held numerous hearings in early 2006. State Seismic Safety Commissioner Dennis Mileti appeared before the Little Hoover Commission on March 23, 2006 and addressed the following issues: (1) the need to match state efforts and funding for preparedness and mitigation to the levels of risk in California; (2) the need for stable funding; (3) how all hazards insurance could create cash reserves for mega-earthquake recovery and reconstruction as well as provide incentives for household mitigation; (4) the need for non-traditional and innovative preparedness for responding to mega-earthquakes; (5) the valuable role of expert oversight in developing appropriate state policy regarding hazards; (6) ways to leverage resources and increase private sector participation in preparedness and mitigation; and (7) the character of public education that works to yield public safety actions.

The LHC released its report in April entitled, *Safeguarding the Golden State: Preparing for Catastrophic Events*. In the report, the LHC urges California’s elected officials to make catastrophic preparedness a priority and asks leaders to come together to ensure that the State is truly prepared. To view the report, visit LHC’s website www.lhc.ca.gov.

**Fremont Earthquake Trench Exhibit
Fremont, California**

Commission staff Fred Turner and Robert Anderson served as docents leading members of the public through the Fremont Earthquake Trench Exhibit, which allows visitors to view the Hayward Fault in a 15-foot-deep trench at Central Park.

**Risk and Insurance Management Society
San Diego, California**

Commission staff Fred Turner gave a presentation on June 14, 2006 to the Risk and Insurance Management Society in San Diego. The Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc. (RIMS) serves its member entities by proactively providing the highest quality products, services and information to manage all forms of business risk.

**Building Officials Course
Davis, California**

Commission staff Fred Turner instructed a class of the building officials in Yolo County regarding the Strong Motion Instrumentation Program and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program.

**Franklin-Templeton Earthquake Awareness Exhibit
San Mateo, California**

Commission staff Karen Cogan represented the Commission at the Franklin-Templeton Investments Earthquake Preparedness Fair on June 12 and 13th. The fair was held in the cafeteria and was well attended by employees of Franklin-Templeton. The Commission conducted an earthquake prediction contest and the winner was Steve Devine from Pacifica who predicted the 2.9 earthquake on June 13, 2006 in San Benito county.

Presenters Before the Commission in 2006

2006 Speakers

Mr. Arthur Ross, SE, President/CEO, CYS Structural Engineers, Inc., Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)

Mr. Doug Hohback, SE, Principal, Hohback-Lewin, Inc., Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)

Ms. Linda Sweaney, Director of Facilities Planning, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Dave Thorman, State Architect, Division of State Architect

Mr. Dennis Bellet, Chief Structural Engineer, Division of the State Architect

Mr. Vincent Coffeen, New Construction Branch, Los Angeles Unified School District

Mr. Jim Cowell, New Construction, Deputy Chief Executive, Facilities Services Division, Los Angeles Unified School District
Mr. David Jaynes, Chief Business Official, Temple City Unified School District
Dr. Michael Reichle, State Seismologist, California Geological Survey
Mr. Tom Duffy, Legislative Advocate, Coalition for Adequate School Housing
Mr. Fred Yaeger, Assistant Director, School Facilities Planning Division, California Department of Education
Mr. David Walls, Executive Director, California Building Standards Commission
Mr. Thomas Kenney, Chief, Architecture & Engineering, Capital Design and Construction, California State University, Office of the Chancellor
Mr. Michael Bocchicchio, Facilities Administration, Assistant Vice President, University of California's Office of the President
Mr. Joel McDonald, Chief, Seismic and Special Programs Section, Real Estate Services Division, Department of General Services
Ms. Rosario Marin, State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary
Mr. Will Bush, State and Consumer Services Agency Undersecretary
Ms. Kathleen Webb, Insurance Advisor, State and Consumer Services Agency
Ms. Grace Koch, Deputy Director, Preparedness & Training Division, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Mr. Gary Winuk, Chief Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Homeland Security
Mr. Greg Chun, Director of Disaster & Emergency Management, California Service Corps
Ms. Betsey Lyman, Deputy Director, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, California Health and Human Services Agency
Mr. Maurice Suh, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Tom Jordan, Director of SCEC, Keck Collaboratory for the Study of Earthquake Predictability
Dr. Ken Hudnut, USGS
Mr. Nabih Youssef, Nabih Youssef & Associates
Professor John Wallace, UCLA Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center
Mr. Jon Heintz, Applied Technology Council
Mr. LeVal Lund, BICEPP
Mr. George Dickson, Seismic Warning Systems (twice)
Ms. Constance Perrett, Los Angeles County
Ms. Sonja Berndt, Attorney General's Office
Chairman Michael Navarro, Hospital Building Safety Board
Mr. Arthur Jensen, BAWSCA
Dr. Jack Moehle, Director of PEER
Mr. Chris Poland, Conference Chair
Ms. Annemarie Conroy, Executive Director, Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security
Deputy Insurance Commissioner Ms. Andrea Biren
Commission Michael Brown, CA Highway Patrol
Mr. James Lee Witt, former Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mr. John Rowden, State Office of Emergency Services

	<i>2004/05 Appropriation And staff</i>	<i>2005/06 Appropriation And staff</i>	<i>2006/07 Appropriation And staff</i>
Insurance Fund (Seismic Safety Account)	\$ 919,000	\$ 1,022,000	1,044,000
Reimbursements	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total	\$ 1,089,000	\$ 994,000	1,119,000

With the enactment of Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003 (SB 1049), the Commission's operations are funded from fee revenues derived from assessments on property insurance policies. Insurance companies in California are assessed an annual fee reflecting the volume of property insurance policies underwritten at a rate calculated to equal the Commission's annual operating budget. In 2003-04, to support the Commission's \$884,000 operating budget, the assessment was estimated at \$0.07 per in-force policy. Under the law, the Department of Insurance collects the assessment revenue and transfers it to a special account for the benefit of the Commission. The passage of AB 1809 (Budget Trailer Bill) will provide continued funding for the Commission through June 2009. The Commission will continue to provide advice to the Legislature and public on earthquake issues and policy recommendations. Members of the Commission are working with the Administration to communicate the role of the Commission and to ensure that the public's best interest regarding seismic safety remains foremost and that California continues seismic mitigation efforts to protect California.

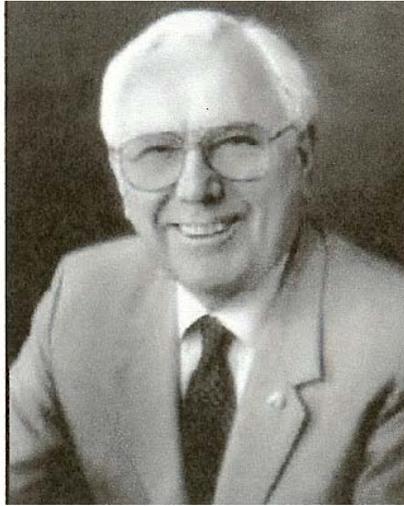
During its 30 years of service, the Seismic Safety Commission has been dedicated to reducing earthquake risk and speeding recovery for the people of California. It accomplishes these goals by providing an independent voice to the Governor and the Legislature. In addition, cost-effectiveness is considered before the Commission releases or implements its actions, products, findings, and recommendations. This cost-effectiveness is amplified by utilizing the expertise of 17 volunteer commissioners representing a wide range of knowledge. On January 1, 2007, the Commission came under the umbrella of the California State and Consumer Services Agency.

The Seismic Safety Commission believes that its unique perspective is critical to the continued development and implementation of seismic safety policy in the State. Therefore, the major challenge for the Seismic Safety Commission in 2007 will be securing a continued funding source that will support its work past the June 30, 2009 sunset date. In addition, other major projects for 2007 will include:

- Report on Effectiveness of the California Field Act
- Revision of the California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan
- Scoping Out Projects for the Earthquake Grant Research Program
- Working with Fellow-State Agencies in Coordinating Earthquake Education
- Partnering with Private Industry on Public Education and Awareness Projects

The Seismic Safety Commission believes that it is better to prepare rather than respond after the earthquake. This policy will save lives and reduce property damage. We must never become complacent about the continued earthquake risk to our citizens.

A Tribute to Senator Alfred E. Alquist



Retired State Senator Al Alquist, 97, of Santa Clara passed away on March 27, 2006. The 34-year veteran of the California Legislature was born on August 2, 1908 in Memphis, Tennessee. Prior to serving four years in the California Assembly beginning in 1962, and the Senate for 30 years until 1996, Senator Alquist had a 40-year career with the railroads.

Seismic Commissioners and staff released a statement of condolence:

“Our thoughts are with Senator Elaine Alquist for her enormous loss. Senator Alfred Alquist touched all our lives and it was an honor to know him. Most importantly, the Commission feels honored to serve out his vision and legacy on a vast array of seismic safety issues for California. His accomplishments and passion for the safety of the public were tremendous. He is directly responsible for saving lives in California and around the world. He was our champion for earthquake safety.”

The Commission will not let his legacy be in vain, but will continue supporting his efforts. He laid a strong foundation and his courage and leadership will be profoundly missed by all whose lives he touched.”