

State of California *Seismic Safety Commission Newsletter* *FALL 2000*

COMMISSION HOLDS GAS SHUTOFF VALVE HEARING

BURBANK, California, October 12th—the Seismic Safety Commission heard testimony from representatives of the Consumer Services Agency, the Public Utilities Commission, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Gas, Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center, and the American Society of Civil Engineers at its October 12th meeting. The Senate Housing Committee Chairman Richard Alarcon (also member of the Commission) felt a need for the commission to address the controversial issues surrounding the regulatory aspects of gas shutoff valves. The Commission is expected to report on its findings and recommendations within a few months.

COMMISSION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

As part of the observance of the Commission's 25th anniversary, the Commission will honor Alfred E. Alquist, former Senator and "Father of Seismic Safety." Senator Richard Alarcon directed the California Senate Office of Research to prepare a summary report of the Commission's past. *Living Where the Earth Shakes: A History of the California Seismic Safety Commission* is a concise report with historical seismic information dating back to 1769. The report will be formally presented to the Commission at the December 7, 2000 meeting in Napa California. A copy of the report will soon be available at www.seismic.ca.gov.

SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR BRINGS BACK IMAGES FOR SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Because of a cooperative agreement between the National Aerodynamics Space Administration (NASA) and the Seismic Safety Commission, the highly acclaimed Space Shuttle Endeavor's radar images will greatly benefit California. These images will produce precise maps of the Earth's peaks and valleys and show distinctive movement along fault-lines. NASA representatives have indicated the data takes about a year and a

half to process, however, select images can be viewed now by visiting <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/index.html>. NASA scientists plan to make a presentation before the Commission in the Spring of 2001.

COMMISSION RECEIVES OVERALL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MITIGATION EFFORTS

The Western Seismic Safety Council (WSSC) awarded the Seismic Safety Commission the Overall Award for Excellence for its *Risk Management Tools for Decision Makers* project. The Commission is honored to receive this award and Commissioner Daniel Shapiro and staff's senior engineer, Henry Reyes, accepted the award on the Commission's behalf at the ceremony in Seattle. The Commission also received past WSSC awards for its *California Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan* and the *Homeowner and Commercial owner's Guides to Earthquake Safety* and Proposition 122 Products.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

AB 2791 (Alquist) SIGNED

Authorizes the State Architect (DGS) to issue "Stop-work" orders on school construction that does not comply with seismic safety requirements.

SB 1871 (Alarcon) VETOED

Directs OES to establish a statewide disaster recovery plan and to create a mitigation committee to assist local government in reducing earthquake risk.

SB 1469 (Costa) SIGNED

Extends by ten years (to 9/30/2007) the permitted use of portable classrooms that do not meet the requirements of the Field Act.

SB 1801 (Speier) SIGNED

Permits a five-year extension (to 2013) of structural seismic standards for hospitals.

SB 1886 (Escutia) VETOED

Requires hospitals to submit cost data to achieve compliance with existing SB 1953 seismic safety requirements. Data would be submitted, not to OSHPD, but instead to a third party "national accounting firm" selected by OSHPD.

SB 2006 (Leslie) SIGNED

Exempts hospital facilities in Seismic Zone 3 from the certain existing non-structural seismic requirement deadline (Jan 2008) if the facility satisfies the existing 2002 nonstructural requirements and submits a site-specific geologic analysis that is approved by OSHPD and CDMG. The existing 2030 deadlines would still apply.

AB 424 (Wildman) VETOED

Authorizes school districts to enter into design-build contracts for projects that exceed \$10 million.

AB 2194 (Gallegos) SIGNED

Requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a statewide liaison office for hospital seismic safety issues (the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act Unit); Requires hospitals to submit compliance plans for the use of temporary hospital facilities; authorizes OSHPD and DHS to grant waivers of operational and physical plant requirements (excluding primary structural; fire & life safety systems) on temporary facilities.

AB 2259 (Wiggins) VETOED

Establishes the California Building Rehabilitation Code Advisory Council to advise State Building Standards Commission regarding the California Building Rehabilitation Guideline.

SB 1729 (Hayden) VETOED

Requires certain school sites be evaluated by an engineering geologist in consultation with a geotechnical engineer for potential earthquake hazards.

AB 2902 (Health Comm.) SIGNED

Makes a technical correction to the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act (SB 1953 Program) to remedy drafting error in Chapter 192/1999 (AB Gallegos) that unintentionally imposes sunset on entire Act.