

**SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

1755 CREEKSIDE OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833  
(916) 263-5506  
(916) 263-0594 FAX  
INTERNET: www.seismic.ca.gov



March 5, 2003

**Memorandum**

**To:** Commissioners

**From:** Henry Sepulveda  
Director of Legislation

**Subj:** Legislative Report and Updates

This report presents a summary of legislative activity affecting the Commission.

Part I and Exhibit 1 describe legislation sponsored by the Commission.

Part II and Exhibit 2 highlight bills that have an impact on the Commission, its policies, operations, or its statutory mission.

February 21 was the deadline for introduction of new bills. This report reflects all Commission-related bills introduced by the deadline. The Legislative Advisory Committee will review the new bills on March 12, and report its recommendations for positions on those bills to the full Commission on March 13. Staff recommendations to the Committee are presented in Exhibit 2.

I. Commission's Legislation for 2003-04

Commission staff was successful in securing introduction of three of the four legislative initiatives previously approved by the Commission for sponsorship.

AB 1066 (Liu) proposes to place the Seismic Safety Bond Act of 2004 before the voters in 2004. The bill authorizes, subject to approval by the voters, the issuance of up to \$700 million in state general obligation bonds to fund the seismic retrofit of local government (essential services) buildings. The measure also includes funding for education and research programs.

AB 1753 (Corbett) conforms the design-build contracting rules for K-12 projects (in excess of \$10 million) with the existing rules for design-build contracting rules applicable to community college projects (in excess of \$10 million). The Commission believes parity is appropriate because buildings on both K-12 and community college campuses are subject to the Field Act.

AB 1756 (Liu) requires, by July 2005, the strapping and anchoring of water heaters in all rental residential units.

The fourth Commission sponsored legislative initiative (involving the periodic inspection of non-structural hazards in K-12 school facilities) did not successfully draw an author, and was not introduced. Legislators felt that the costs of implementation of the program would be financially prohibitive under current State budget conditions.

## II. Introduced Legislation

As of March 5, staff has identified and is monitoring the bills listed below. The bills are presented in Exhibit 2 with staff recommendations for positions on those bills. These and all other bills are subject to amendments. Exhibits 1 and 2 will be updated on March 12 to reflect any significant amendments in bills being presented to the Commission on March 13.

**AB 28 (Pavley):** Subject to the availability of federal funds, directs OES to establish a program for the acquisition of hazardous materials equipment for state and local fire service agencies.

**Recommendation: *Support.*** This bill complements the Commission's current US&R Committee report (in progress) on needs of local first responder agencies.

**AB 225 (Frommer):** Directs DSA and the Department of Education to develop a "checklist" to provide local school districts guidance with evaluating potential use of private buildings as school facilities.

**Recommendation: *Support.*** This bill corresponds with a recommendation made by the Commission in the AB 16 Report.

**AB 1598 (Corbett):** Appropriates funds from the California Residential Earthquake Recovery Fund to the Department of Insurance for its residential retrofitting program.

**Recommendation: *Support.*** This bill is a follow-up measure (to AB 1118, Corbett, sponsored by the Commission in 2001) extending the existing program.

**SB 242 (Knight):** This bill allows community college buildings used for UC and CSU classes to be built using the California Building Standards Code OR the Field Act.

**Recommendation: *Oppose.*** The Commission opposes to any deviation from the Field Act's provisions covering community college facilities.

**SB 351 (Ducheny):** This bill proposes the allocation of federal money to the emergency services along California-Mexico border.

**Recommendation:** *Support.* The Commission supports funding for training and equipment for emergency services personnel.

**SB 1014 (Aanestad):** The bill effectively suspends existing SB 1953 requirements for the seismic retrofitting and upgrading of hospitals, effective January 1, 2004., pending the availability of state funds to assist hospitals to comply with the SB 1953 Program

**Recommendation:** *Oppose.* The Commission opposes removing the deadlines for the Alfred Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act as reported in the 2000 White Paper on Hospital Seismic Safety.