

**SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

1755 CREEKSIDE OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833  
(916) 263-5506  
(916) 263-0594 FAX



**CALIFORNIA STATE SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**  
**Recognizes the 35<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the 1971 San Fernando (Sylmar) Earthquake**  
**At the February 9, 2006 Commission Meeting in Los Angeles**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Karen Cogan**  
**or Sue Celli**  
**(916) 263-5506 ext 229**

**SACRAMENTO** – At its February 9, 2006 meeting, the California Seismic Safety Commission will recognize the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the San Fernando Earthquake. Invited experts will be 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, located in Sylmar. The San Fernando earthquake claimed 65 lives and caused more than a half a billion dollars in damage, destroyed two hospitals and a freeway interchange and damaged the Lower Van Norman Dam.

Among the speakers at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting will be 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.

*“California must look to its past to be ready for its future. Since the San Fernando earthquake, California has made significant advances in earthquake safety but much more needs to be done.”* stated Dr. Lucy Jones, USGS scientist and State Seismic Commissioner. She will describe three new initiatives to apply earthquake science to improve decision making in California.

Through these presentations, the public will hear individuals who remember the San Fernando Earthquake, listen to 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 will begin at 9:00 a.m. and is located at the Los Angeles City Hall, John Ferraro City council Chambers, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles.

*The Seismic Safety Commission was established in 1975 to advise the Governor, Legislature, State and local government agencies, and the public on ways of reducing earthquake hazards. It is an independent agency composed of 17 commissioners chosen for their expertise and experience.*