

California Earthquake Prediction  
Evaluation Council  
**CEPEC**

March 19, 2026  
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE





**CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION EVALUATION COUNCIL  
(CEPEC)  
MEETING NOTICE**

March 19, 2026  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**In-Person Meeting Location:**

3650 Schriever Avenue, DCR 2  
Mather, California 95655

**Microsoft Teams Meeting Information**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25850247471582?p=7BgSHTUOQjv61XpVt1>

Meeting ID: 258 502 474 715 82

Passcode: y4hc9Sg6

Dial in by phone

[+1 415-906-4037, 484035433#](tel:+14159064037484035433) United States, San Francisco

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 484 035 433#

Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: [caloes@m.webex.com](mailto:caloes@m.webex.com)

Video ID: 112 375 321 8

[More info](#)



**For more meeting information and materials, scan the QR code above**



## CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION EVALUATION COUNCIL (CEPEC)

March 19, 2026  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### MEETING AGENDA

- I. OPENING REMARKS AND ROLL CALL (5 Minutes)**  
*The State Geologist (CEPEC Chair) welcomes members of the Council, providing opening remarks. Roll call taken to establish a majority of the Council present.*
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (5 Minutes)**  
*Public attendees provide comments on agenda items.*
- III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (5 Minutes)**  
*Council Members may move to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2025, meeting.*
- IV. REVIEW OF EMERGENCY MEETING PROCEDURES (5 Minutes)**  
*The Council reviews policies and procedures for emergency meetings that occur to discuss unfolding seismic events.*
- V. HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE ADVISORY PLAN (30 Minutes) Dr. Jim Goltz (UC Berkeley) discusses the history of the California Earthquake Advisory Plan (Advisory Plan), followed by an opportunity for Council Members to discuss the presentation.**
- VI. OPERATIONAL AFTERSHOCK FORECASTING (30 Minutes)**  
*Dr. Morgan Page (USGS) discusses operational aftershock forecasting, followed by an opportunity for Council Members to discuss the presentation.*

**VII. ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE** (10 Minutes)

*Council establishes the subcommittee responsible for identifying possible scenarios requiring an Advisory and determining what information from the CEPEC deliberation is appropriate to communicate. This subcommittee will also work with Cal OES to update the Advisory Plan and the Advisory Statements.*

**VIII. ESTABLISH NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE** (10 Minutes)

*Council establishes the subcommittee responsible for identifying volcanic hazards experts for consideration as the final member of the Council.*

**IX. ESTABLISH NEPEC COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE** (10 Minutes)

*Council establishes the subcommittee responsible for working collaboratively with the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC) to determine procedures for handling earthquake forecasts and predictions.*

**X. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD** (5 Minutes)

*Public attendees provide comments on any items not included in the agenda.*

**XI. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING** (3 Minutes)

*The Council discusses administrative details and determines potential topics for the next planning meeting.*

**XII. CLOSING REMARKS** (2 Minutes)

*Upon closing remarks, the meeting adjourns.*

**Adjournment**



Meetings of the CEPEC are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The Council may act on any item listed on the agenda. Agenda items may be taken out of order to facilitate the effective transaction of business.

### **Statements from the Public:**

Members of the public will be given an opportunity to comment before action is taken on any agenda item and during the scheduled Open Comment Period of the agenda. Comments should be addressed to the Council and should be limited to three (3) minutes or less. Although not required, speakers are requested to identify themselves by stating their name and city of residence for the official record. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body. Speakers should be brief and are to limit their comments to the subject of discussion.

To submit written public comment to the Council, please send statement(s) to:

### **Access to Meeting and/or For More Information:**

Individuals who require special accommodations, or to receive meeting materials, contact the individual below at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting date:

Samantha Layne, Cal OES  
3650 Schriever Avenue, Mather, CA 95655  
916-396-2700 / [samantha.layne@CalOES.ca.gov](mailto:samantha.layne@CalOES.ca.gov)

**TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929  
or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.**

This meeting notice is made available online, please visit the CEPEC [webpage](#).



# California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council **CEPEC**

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES  
November 6, 2025





**CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION EVALUATION COUNCIL  
(CEPEC)**

In-person and Teleconference Meeting  
November 6, 2025  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- Jeremy Lancaster, California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (CEPEC) Chair, called the meeting to order and confirmed CEPEC was established by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to serve as an advisory committee to the Governor and the Director of Cal OES on the scientific validity of an earthquake or volcanic eruption prediction.
- Rules of an open meeting were briefly reviewed to ensure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- Chair Lancaster informed the Council that due to changes occurring after the agenda was made public ten days prior to the meeting, the Council would vote during roll call to approve removing the item "Identify Protocols and Procedures for Updating" and shortening a review of the current by-laws to add an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

**II. RECOGNITION OF CEPEC MEMBERS BY APPOINTMENT**

- Chair Lancaster conducted roll call, establishing quorum and the motion to amend the agenda passed.

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Jeremy Lancaster, Chair, California Geological Survey	X			X	
Dr. Wendy Bohon, Vice Chair, California Geological Survey	X			X	
Dr. Greg Beroza, Stanford University		X		X	
Dr. Morgan Page, United States Geological Survey		X		X	
Dr. Diego Melgar, University of Oregon		X		X	
Dr. Gareth Funning, University of California Riverside		X		X	

Dr. Taka'aki Taira, University of California Berkeley		X		X	
Dr. Zachary Ross, California Institute of Technology		X		X	
Dr. Justin Rubinstein, United States Geological Survey			X		
Dr. Sara McBride, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Seismic Safety Commission	X			X	

**III. PURPOSE OF CEPEC**

- Chair Lancaster outlined the purpose of CEPEC, which is to provide expert scientific guidance in:
  - Evaluating the validity of earthquake and volcanic eruption predictions.
  - Assessing short-term probabilities of seismic or volcanic events.
  - Reviewing new scientific developments that affect long-term seismic risk.
- The Council also advises the Director of Cal OES on continued earthquake and/or volcanic hazards that may warrant alerts or emergency actions.

**IV. REVIEW OF CEPEC BY-LAWS**

- Chair Lancaster reviewed the current CEPEC by-laws including:
  - Membership and Terms
    - The Council is currently comprised of eight (8) voting members.
    - Slide 7 should state, "...and representatives of the institutions comprising the California Integrated Seismic Network."
  - Ad Hoc Membership and Terms
  - Official Communication and Representation
    - Communication must go through the Chair.
  - Compensation
- Chair Lancaster reviewed Article V (Duties of Officers) of the CEPEC by-laws, outlining the duties CEPEC Chair and Vice Chair.
- Chair Lancaster reviewed Article VI (Sub-Committees) of the CEPEC by-laws, including:
  - Nominating Committees

- A nominating committee will be established in the next or following meeting to fill the current vacancy on the Council.
- Rapid Assessment Sub-Committee
- Special Sub-Committees and Working Groups
- Chair Lancaster reviewed Article VII (CEPEC Meetings) of the CEPEC by-laws, including:
  - CEPEC Regular Meetings
    - The goal is to have regular meetings on a 4-month cycle.
  - CEPEC Special Meetings
  - CEPEC Rapid Assessment Conference Calls or Meetings
    - Emergency meetings when Council members deliberate on a seismic risk are closed to the public.
  - CEPEC Quorum
- Chair Lancaster reviewed Article IX (CEPEC By-Law Amendments) of the CEPEC by-laws, including:
  - CEPEC Meeting Agenda Items
    - The agenda is published on the public-facing website and agenda items are needed in advance.
    - Staff is working on an appropriate method for council members to submit requests for agenda items.
  - CEPEC Requests of Staff Time
  - CEPEC Correspondence

## **V. EMERGENCY MEETING PROCEDURES**

- Chair Lancaster reviewed the process and procedures of an emergency meeting.
  - Ad hoc members may be requested for emergency meetings of CEPEC.
- There are two (2) steps for an emergency meeting.
  - Step 1 is rapid assessment and “triage” of a seismic event to determine if the entire CEPEC body is needed to deliberate.
    - During a potential earthquake sequence, a small subset of the Council would convene with members who have served on CEPEC in the past, including Council Member Beroza and Council Member Page.
    - The Chair, Vice Chair, and Council Members Beroza and Page will be the core group for the first step, but the

- appropriate specialist(s) will be involved depending on the tectonic environment and the location of the event in the state ((i.e., Council Member Melgar might be called during a sequence in the Subduction Zone).
- Step two is the whole Council deliberates (if deemed necessary) and determines any recommended actions to the Director of Cal OES.
    - The meeting must be started as a public meeting, go into closed session to deliberate, then return to the public meeting setting.
    - The Council does not need to communicate the recommendation(s), as this information is proprietary to the Director; however, the nature of what was considered must be reported to the public.
  - Council Member Beroza sought clarity on the requirement of permission from the Chair regarding communication, asking how to consider permission when sending emails to make a request for a calculation.
    - Chair Lancaster stated that if no policy or position is included in the request, especially if the request pertains to a rapid assessment and the subcommittee has met to discuss potential contacts to do a calculation, the members are authorized to initiate this communication.
    - The Chair and Vice Chair would be involved in initial discussions, so permission should not be an issue.
    - Council Member Beroza stated he feared seeking permission to make a request could slow down the process and appreciated the clarification.
  - Council Member Beroza inquired, as CEPEC is inward facing to Cal OES, and council members are specifically excluded from speaking on behalf of CEPEC, if the Director misrepresents or miscommunicates the recommendation of the Council, are council members forbidden from speaking and what recourse is available?
    - In this scenario, Chair Lancaster will follow up as it is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure what is deliberated by CEPEC is communicated to the Director.

- The Chair will accurately convey recommendations and assist in drafting notifications issued by the Director.
- Chair Lancaster assured the Council he will conduct any follow-up with the Director to clarify recommendations should the opinion of the Council be misrepresented.
- Council Member Melgar suggested that the vacant seat on the council be filled by a volcano expert, as volcanic activity is part of the mandate of CEPEC.
  - Chair Lancaster agreed with this suggestion as the council is currently missing that technical expertise.
- Council Member Melgar asked for clarification on the concept of immunity for the Council.
  - Sara Puricelli, Cal OES Legal Representative, stated there is a statute that qualifies boards and bodies such as CEPEC for immunity in terms of predictions when nothing happens, but people took drastic measures based on a prediction of the Council.
  - There is immunity for scientific bodies because in deliberations, scientists are not talking in certainties, but thinking of probabilities, looking at trends, and what has happened in the past to make a prediction.
  - Council members are not responsible for the actions taken by individuals and there is a closed session qualifier to protect the Council, so the public does not act on the deliberations of CEPEC.

## **VI. BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT OVERVIEW**

- Sarah Puricelli, Cal OES Legal Representative, stated the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act was developed from state policy to guarantee the constitutional right to access public information and is explicitly concerned with open actions and protection of deliberations and discussions.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed the types of meetings subject to the Act.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed what is considered a meeting.

- A meeting is a gathering of majority of the members of a state body; can be virtual, in-person or via email.
- When selecting “reply all” to an email, it is possible to be violating the Act if decisions are made outside of a public meeting of the Council.
- A gathering is only considered a meeting when the item under discussion is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed what is considered a subcommittee.
  - A subcommittee of CEPEC can violate the Act if a subcommittee has five (5) people and a decision is made; the Act has been violated because the subcommittee consists of a majority of the total number of council members.
  - Follow the Rule of Two: Discuss an idea with one other council member as two (2) members cannot make an action on behalf of the Council.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed the serial meeting prohibition of the Act.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed what is not considered a public meeting.
  - If speaking at a public conference on behalf of CEPEC and a majority of council members are present, it is possible to violate the Act.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed the staff briefing exemption
  - Staff not on the Council, (i.e., staff liaison, executive director, etc.) can contact council members to get information to prepare for meetings but may not share communications from one council member with another, and must stay removed from discussions, deliberations, and actions.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed procedures for open meetings and exceptions for special meetings and emergency meetings.
  - A closed session must be included on the agenda.
  - For virtual meetings, voting must be done through roll call.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed what is considered a closed session.

- Though something could be of interest to the public, it could be sensitive for a body to discuss openly.
- Public must have the opportunity to comment on what is discussed in closed session.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed teleconference policies.
- Legal Representative Puricelli reviewed the consequences for violating the Act.
  - Though it is misdemeanor to violate the Act, the concern is for those who violate policies such as serial communication nefariously.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- No public comments were received on items listed on the agenda.

#### **VIII. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD**

- No public comments were received on items not listed on the agenda.

#### **IX. PLANNING NEXT MEETING**

- Meetings will be held on a 4-month cycle and Chair Lancaster proposed the next meeting be on March 19, 2026, from 10-12pm.
- Chair Lancaster suggested potential topics for the next meeting agenda, including:
  - Inviting a past member of the Council to provide a history of CEPEC and discuss personal experience of a specific event.
  - Methods for aftershock forecasting.
  - More discussion of the by-laws.
- Council Member McBride suggested discussing communication of a CEPEC recommendation or advisory to the Director of Cal OES, looking at templates, and considering the involvement of Cal OES, particularly the Public Information Office.
  - What can the Council do to aid Cal OES in distributing an advisory or communication quickly.
- Council Member Page suggested an overview of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) forecasting products because it is a different environment from the last time CEPEC convened.

- Anything related to foreshock or aftershock probabilities will already be made public by USGS, and CEPEC will have to consider how to communicate and work with USGS to be consistent.
- Chair Lancaster stated it is the goal of CEPEC to sync with the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC) and USGS for consistency.
- Council Member Taira inquired about the timeframe for appointing the ninth council member and seconded the need for a volcano specialist.
  - Chair Lancaster stated the establishment of the nominating committee will be added to the next agenda.
- Council Member Melgar asked when the last time CEPEC was convened and issued a recommendation.
  - CEPEC last convened in 2019 for the Ridgecrest earthquake sequence.
  - Council Member Melgar echoed the benefit of having a former council member present at a future meeting to share past experiences and compare to the current climate when the amount of post-earthquake products has grown exponentially.
  - Chair Lancaster committed to this idea and stated he can potentially share some files and records from previous CEPEC deliberations.
- Council Member Melgar asked if CEPEC can be convened in response to non-seismic predictions and what is the plan to triage predictions for discussion.
  - Chair Lancaster stated predictions provided directly to the Governor's Office or the Director of Cal OES will be considered for discussion; otherwise, the Council will follow NEPEC guidance.
  - Chair Lancaster suggested creating a subcommittee to develop internal guidance on what would trigger an evaluation of a prediction.

## **X. CLOSING REMARKS**

- Chair Lancaster adjourned the meeting.