



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



**ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

Zoom Teleconference Meeting
November 12, 2020

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto, Chairperson at 9:02am. Tanya Black, Administrative Processes Manager, conducted the roll call.

Present:

Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto, Chair

Cindy Silva, Vice Chair

Representative Jim Hackett for Ida Clair

Representative Elizabeth Hess for Ken Cooley

Michael Gardner

Representative Rachel Sierer Wooden for Mark Ghilarducci

Mia Marvelli

Jorge Meneses

David Rabbitt

Timothy Strack

Andrew Tran

Ivan Wong

Absent:

Ida Clair

Ken Cooley

Mark Ghilarducci

Jerry Hill

Fuad Sweiss



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II. Approval of Seismic Safety Commission September 10th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

The Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) discussed the meeting minutes of September 10th, 2020. Motion to approve by Commissioner Gardner, seconded by Commissioner Marvelli. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Miyamoto shared that he met with California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) staff the week prior.

IV. Cal OES Executive Remarks

Speaker – Lisa Mangat- Deputy Director of Policy and Administration

Mrs. Mangat spoke of how both Cal OES and the SSC were both created and established in the 1970's and how important it is to have both organizations working together. Mrs. Mangat discussed the Emergency Services Act, how Cal OES communicates with external partners, such as the legislative, public and local communities. The Cal OES Leadership Team would discuss the Seismic and Earthquake Program.

V. Emergency Management & Seismic Hazards in California

Speaker – Lori Nezhura- Deputy Director of Planning and Preparedness

Mrs. Nezhura gave a Power Point presentation on community education and training in Emergency Earthquake Preparedness, including educating children on Emergency Response. She also stated that the focus of this program will include vulnerable communities in their planning and preparedness via advocacy regarding COVID and all other emergencies. Presentations are provided to community groups on these topics.

Mrs. Nezhura discussed the success of the 2020 "Shake-out" event. As well as discussing the Listos California Campaign, which is a shorter (year-



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long) program, addressing COVID and other disaster preparedness to the high risk and vulnerable communities.

Mrs. Nezhura cited various collaborations between Cal OES and various entities. She spoke of the collaborative efforts between Cal OES, Earthquake Country Alliance, and multiple states partnering with Cal OES and FEMA in preparedness for tsunami preparedness.

Speaker – Rachel Sierer-Wooden- Chief of Seismic Hazards Branch

Mrs. Sierer Wooden gave an update on Tsunami Preparedness month, stating that it has shifted from a week-long event to the entire month of March. She also discussed the California Earthquake Warning is a re-branding of California's Early Warning Earthquake System that is based in cellular modalities. California can get messages out to cell phones and is the first state to do so. This allows first responders, utilities, and the public to take actions to increase survival. When the system is complete it will have 1,115 sensors. Cal OES partners in the network include the US Geological Survey, UC Berkeley, Cal Tech and the California Geological Survey.

Mrs. Sierer Wooden also presented information on the partnership with UC Berkeley, who developed the My Shake App, as well as the partnership between Google, Cal OES, and US Geological Survey in developing a system that provides Android Phones operating systems to integrate earthquake warning. Currently there are more than one million people who have downloaded the My Shake App.

The Wireless Emergency Alert System sends messages to mobile phones for earthquake early warning and has been updated to be immediate and no longer requires a person to manually enter the information. The system is now fully automated. An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater is required for the wireless warning network to issue an alert. In March and June of 2019, the system was tested in Oakland and then in the County of San Diego. Both tests were successful.

Mrs. Sierer Wooden discussed the benefits of the "Don't Get Caught Off Guard Campaign" which is a multilingual program to educate people in what do when an earthquake strikes as well as being prepared beforehand. Also Mrs. Sierer Wooden mentioned a fourth-grade curriculum called "Preparedness Ambassadors." Booklets are provided to teachers. Once registered for the



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campaign, children will be educated on seismic safety and awarded a badge for completing the program.

There is also a focus on continuing education and outreach for water districts, municipalities and citizens. In addition, there has been a shift in research and development so that the system isn't entirely cellular based, as there are some people who don't use cell phones.

Speaker – Alex Powell- Chief of Legal Counsel

Mr. Powell discussed three main sets of laws that Cal OES operates under:

1. Emergency Services Act
2. California Disaster Assistance Act
3. Stafford Act

Mr. Powell stated that the Cal OES legal department aids like legal departments in other State Agencies. In addition, Mr. Powell's legal team directs the Governor's proclamations, executive orders, provides critical legal research, personnel and human resource assistance, and conduct training in ethics and transparency.

Discussion:

There was discussion by Commission Wong, on the role of the SSC being independent within the Cal OES. Commission Wong stated his concerns with possible differing opinions on issues and legislation between the SSC and Cal OES. Cal OES staff stated the SSC's opinions on issues and legislation will be taken under advisement, however, SSC will not take independent formal positions on such matters. The SSC will work in collaboration with Cal OES. Commission Rabbit and Representative Hackett expressed their support for the direction of the SSC within Cal OES.

Speaker – Brian May- Chief of Media Relations and Public Information

Mr. May stated that the Crisis Communication in Legislative and Internal Affairs supports all the internal and external messaging and communication for Cal OES. Also, he mentioned this entity provides information to the Governor's office



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and works with different campaigns to assist with distributing information to the public and decision-makers.

Speaker – Reggie Salvador- Office of Legislative and External Affairs

Mr. Salvador stated the Office of Legislative and External Affairs coordinates calls statewide and works with various entities to communicate on behalf of Cal OES during disasters, including COVID19.

Commissioner Meneses expressed his concerns regarding censorship of the SSC by Cal OES. He stated he would like to have a further discussion at the next SSC meeting on this topic. Representative Hackett and Chairman Miyamoto stated the SSC's new structure within Cal OES is a positive move and this new format brings more leverage and respect by to the SSC by allowing SSC to work more effectively with Cal OES.

Commissioner Gardner said that the structure has changed and so the Commission should look at it as to how they can better help the citizens of the State of California by working with Cal OES.

VI. Public Comment

This item was taken out of order and heard after Miscellaneous Announcements.

Speaker - Evan Reis -Structural Engineer/Executive Director of Non-Profit U.S. Resiliency Council (USRC)

Mr. Reis announced that the USRC had launched a 12 part Educational and Live Panel Webinar Series in conjunction with Optimum Series, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles County Economic Development Department, and the Los Angeles County Business Federation.



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VII. Miscellaneous Announcements

Speaker – Richard McCarthy, Executive Director

Discussion:

Executive Director McCarthy stated the Lena Daniel had retired in September and thanked her for her service. He stated at the next Commission meeting the Commissioners will be provided an update on the SSC budget. He mentioned staff is still transition with the Cal OES budgets team.

Mr. McCarthy stated the SSC must revise the Commercial Property Builder's Owner's Guide and will start the recruitment process to hire Senior Structural Engineer and that person will be project manager for the guide.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am by Kit Miyamoto, Chairperson.