



State Of California

# ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION



*Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor*

Gary McGavin, AIA  
*Architectural Planning  
Chairman*

Dennis Mileti  
*Social Services  
Vice-Chair*

Hon. Elaine Alquist  
*State Senate*

James Schwab  
*Senate Representative*

Hon. Sam Blakeslee  
*State Assembly*

Dr. Lucy Jones  
*Seismology*

Hon. Mark Church  
*Local Government*

Arul Arulmoli  
*Soils Engineer*

Andrew Adelman  
*City Building Official*

Henry Renteria  
*Office of Emergency  
Services*

Grace Koch  
*OES Representative*

David Thorman  
*State Architect*

Dave Walls  
*Building Standards  
Commission*

Hon. Ken Cooley  
*Cities Government*

Chief Don Parker  
*Fire Protection*

Bill Chubb  
*Utilities*

Sharron Leaton  
*Emergency Services*

Bradley Mitzelfelt  
*County Government*

Ali Sadre  
*Structural Engineering*

Michael Stevens  
*Insurance*

Richard McCarthy  
*Executive Director*

Seismic Safety Commission  
Minutes of Meeting and Staff Workshop  
June 14, 2007  
State Capitol, Room 4202  
Sacramento, California

## Members Participating

Gary McGavin, Chair  
Dennis Mileti, Vice Chair  
Andrew Adelman  
Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli  
Mark Church  
Ken Cooley  
Lucy Jones  
Lawrence T. Klein  
Grace Koch  
Celestine Palmer  
Don Parker (arrived at 9:12 a.m.)  
James Schwab  
David Walls  
Keith Wheeler

## Members Absent

Assemblymember Sam Blakeslee  
Bruce Clark  
Daniel Shapiro  
David Thorman

## Staff Present

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director  
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant  
Robert Anderson, Staff Geologist  
Henry Reyes, Staff Structural Engineer  
Larry Rillera, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer

## I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Gary McGavin called the meeting of the Seismic Safety Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

## II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

### Meeting Dedication

Chairman McGavin proposed dedicating the meeting in memory of former Commissioner James Slosson, a long-time seismic safety advocate, and his wife, Nancy Slosson.

Executive Director Richard McCarthy noted that Commissioner Slosson was one of the nation's leading geologists and helped start the Seismic Safety Commission. He said Commissioner Slosson will be missed by the staff, commissioners, and many other people in the State of California.

### **Welcome New Commissioners**

Chairman McGavin welcomed the Commission's newest members, Don Parker, Ken Cooley, and James Schwab. He noted that Commissioner Parker currently serves as fire chief for the City of Vallejo and contributed much to the Commission during his previous tenure. He invited Commissioners Cooley and Schwab to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Cooley said he was pleased to join the Commission. He indicated that he represents California cities on the Commission and was a member of the League of California Cities Governing Board. He expressed appreciation to the Commission for its work in reducing earthquake perils for the state and commended the Commission for its outreach and collaborative efforts.

Commissioner Schwab, designated delegate for Senator Elaine Alquist, noted that Senator Alquist has a strong interest in seismic safety and the future of the Commission. He added that he looks forward to representing her on the Commission.

### **Farewell to Departing Commissioners**

Chairman McGavin announced the departure of two commissioners, Daniel Shapiro and Keith Wheeler. He noted that Commissioner Shapiro, a structural engineer, served on the Commission for twelve years and contributed much to the seismic safety of the state. He said Commissioner Shapiro was unable to attend the meeting, and he extended the Commission's good wishes for an enjoyable retirement. Chairman McGavin thanked Commissioner Wheeler for his service and invited him to make a few remarks.

Commissioner Wheeler said he served a four-year term on the Commission during Governor Pete Wilson's administration and then came back for two more years under Governor Schwarzenegger. He noted that the Commission addresses issues that are crucial for the state, and he wished the Commission success in its future endeavors.

Chairman McGavin thanked Commissioners Shapiro and Wheeler for their dedicated service.

### **III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Dennis Mileti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Celestine Palmer, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting as presented.*

- \* Motion carried, 12 - 0 - 1 (Commissioner Jones abstaining, Commissioner Parker absent during voting).

## **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Budget**

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the latest budget projections. He reported that his most recent communication from the Attorney General's office indicates that the balance of the California Research Assistance Fund (CRAF) monies are likely to be released to the Commission by the end of July. He requested assistance from commissioners in reviewing the proposed gift agreement to effect the transfer of funds and said he hoped to have an exact figure soon.

### **Year-End Contracts**

Mr. McCarthy noted that the staff projects a year-end surplus. He requested that the Commission authorize him to work with the chair and vice chair to approve year-end purchases of equipment and other items for the Commission's office. He proposed paying the remaining amount, approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) as reimbursement for the amount paid back to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He added that he would discuss the payment plan in more detail as part of the next agenda item.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Lawrence Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mark Church, that:

*The Commission authorize the staff and the Commission chair and vice chair to approve the year-end expenditures as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 14 - 0.

### **Status of FEMA Appeal - Repayment Options**

Mr. McCarthy reported that the Commission's appeal of the FEMA audit findings was denied, so the Commission will have to repay OES for money FEMA overpaid the Commission for its work on the Northridge earthquake report. He estimated that the amount will be somewhere between \$186,000 and \$205,000 and said OES will provide the exact number soon.

Mr. McCarthy proposed making one payment to OES at the end of this fiscal year then decide how much to pay over the next fiscal year. He recommended that the Commission plan to pay the entire amount back over the course of one year. He said he envisioned paying \$30,000 to \$50,000 at the end of June, approximately \$82,000 in the second quarter of the next fiscal year, and a final payment of the approximately \$54,000 balance next June or July.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Commission has three sources for repayment funds: 1) the approximately \$40,000 due as reimbursement for the Commission's work reviewing the activities of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center; 2) approximately \$8,000 per month from the California Earthquake Authority (CEA), representing about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of

the salary for Staff Geologist Robert Anderson, who is working part-time for the CEA, and 3) approximately \$200,000 per year from the CRAF fund to pay for Commission overhead in administering the research grant program. He suggested delaying some research projects and counting staff and commissioner time in the calculation. Mr. McCarthy added that the Commission will continue to work to find other revenue sources to augment its funds.

Commissioner Grace Koch thanked the Commission staff for its hard work and dedication in pursuing the FEMA appeal. She said the Commission fought valiantly, and said OES will continue to work with the Commission to arrive at an acceptable payment plan.

Mr. McCarthy expressed his appreciation to the OES staff for its advocacy efforts and support.

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission approve a motion affirming the payback plan, with the understanding that the actual amount of payments will be revisited in the fall.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Cooley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kandiah Arulmoli, that:

*The Commission approve the proposed payback plan and schedule and authorize the necessary program adjustments.*

Commissioner Church clarified that the Commission will revisit this issue after OES provides the exact amount owed.

\* Motion carried, 14 - 0.

Chairman McGavin noted that Commissioner Parker had arrived, and he welcomed him back to the Commission.

Commissioner Parker said he was very happy to have been reappointed.

## **V. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

### **Commission Press Coverage in Lodi**

Ms. Cogan provided commissioners with copies of a front-page article from the *Lodi Sentinel* regarding the Commission's April meeting in Lodi.

### **Resolution of Appreciation for Simpson Strong-Tie**

Ms. Cogan recommended that the Commission approve a resolution expressing appreciation to Simpson Strong-Tie, the retrofit facility in Stockton that commissioners toured after the Lodi meeting. Chairman McGavin said he thoroughly enjoyed the field trip and attended a later seminar on retrofit of cripple-wall homes.

Ms. Cogan said the simulation of the Loma Prieta, Kobe, and Northridge earthquakes cost Simpson approximately \$4,500. Chairman McGavin added that these costs covered only the

test itself and did not include staff time for building the system. He drew attention to the proposed resolution and recommended approval.

ACTION: Commissioner David Walls made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Klein, that:

*The Commission approve the resolution of appreciation for Simpson Strong-Tie.*

\* Motion carried, 14 - 0.

### **Distribution of Spanish Yellow Pages in Southern California**

Ms. Cogan reported that a larger version of the Spanish Yellow Pages, including a 3-page insert on earthquake preparedness, will be published in Southern California during the next three months. She noted that the Commission already paid for the San Francisco Bay Area version.

### **Distribution of *Commercial Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety***

Ms. Cogan advised that the Commission ordered 3,000 copies of the updated *Commercial Owner's Guide to Earthquake Safety*, which was revised last fall. She said the document will be distributed to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Chambers of Commerce, the Governor's Office, the United Grocers Association, and other entities for dissemination to the public.

Mr. Anderson reported that about 600 copies of the document are being downloaded each month from the Commission's Website.

### **Pepperdine University Project**

Ms. Cogan said Pepperdine University received a grant to work with five large faith-based organizations to assist in disaster preparedness and recovery, and meetings have been held with the Red Cross, California Volunteers, and the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). She stated that VOAD plays a major role in organizing faith-based groups, and she recommended that the Commission offer assistance to VOAD in this effort.

## **VI. THE GREAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT: PREPARING FOR AN EARTHQUAKE ON THE SOUTHERN SAN ANDREAS FAULT**

Commissioner Lucy Jones reported that the 2008 Golden Guardian exercise will be based on an Southern California earthquake scenario, and she presented a series of slides explaining how the scenario was developed. She noted that this public response effort grew out of a multi-hazards demonstration project, and its goal is to help people in California prepare for major disasters. She said a different hazard scenario is used each year to focus attention on the issues, problems, and strategies necessary to prepare and cope for each type of emergency. Commissioner Jones stated that many state agencies and local organizations will participate, including the Seismic Safety Commission, OES, the City of Los Angeles, the California Geological Survey, FEMA, PEER, the Southern California Earthquake Center, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, Red Cross, Los Angeles Unified School District, and county governments.

Chairman McGavin thanked Commissioner Jones for her presentation.



## **VII. ART CENTER LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE PROJECT**

Chairman McGavin invited Mr. Richard Koshalek, President of the Art Center College of Design, to address the Commission. Mr. Koshalek introduced his associates, Ms. Mariana Amatullo, Director of the Designmatters program, and Ms. Karen Germain, corporate relations.

Mr. Koshalek said the Art Center College of Design is an extraordinary institution that was started in 1930 with a focus on combining art and industrial design. He noted the Art Center has been a leader in designing automobiles and a wide range of other commercial products, reflecting its motto that “Design is good for business.” He reported that the Art Center College of Design currently has about 2,000 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students, a faculty of 600, and a yearly budget ranging between \$65 million and \$85 million. Mr. Koshalek stated that the Art Center offers education in 13 disciplines in advertising, graphic design, image design, and communications design. He showed slides of a transmedia book, linking text with bar codes that can be used to transmit information to users’ cell phones.

In response to students’ demands for more relevant and worthwhile applications of design, Mr. Koshalek said, the school instituted a Designmatters initiative to bring design expertise to issues of social concern. He noted that the Art Center is in the process of setting up international branches to deal with major global challenges and has formed a series of partnerships with institutions like the United Nations, World Bank, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control, and NASA. Mr. Koshalek talked about the wall-less classroom initiative, an effort to develop environmentally friendly apartments and rooftop parks in Los Angeles. He indicated that Art Center students traveled to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to assist with rebuilding and clean-up efforts there.

Mr. Koshalek described the Art Center’s Earthquake Project, a multi-disciplinary effort to improve public awareness and education regarding earthquake preparedness. He noted that the initiative is one part of the institution’s larger commitment to societal change. He said the campaign has a three-part strategy focusing on the public, the media, and decision-makers. Over a three-year period, the project will develop a visual source book for the media, organize a public awareness campaign using traditional and alternative media, and sponsor a major public event in front of City Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Longer-range goals include developing a new Los Angeles River Park downtown with storage facilities for water and emergency equipment, use of bus stops to disseminate emergency response information to the public, and development of emergency shelters to temporarily house people after disaster. Mr. Koshalek stated that the Earthquake Project will have many positive outcomes, including new paradigms for community outreach, more effective public education about disaster preparedness and mitigation, and greater community interaction and collaboration.

Chairman McGavin thanked Mr. Koshalek for his presentation.

## **VIII. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Director of Legislative Affairs Larry Rillera reported that the proposed 2007-08 state budget was currently being reviewed in conference committee and was likely to be approved soon.

Mr. Rillera drew attention to the list of pending bills in his written report. He advised that there were no significant items requiring Commission action at this time. He noted that most bills had passed from their houses of origin, but some were later dropped by the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Rillera reported that the State and Consumer Services Agency requested a list of annual reports prepared by the Commission as part of its efforts to consolidate and simplify legislative reporting requirements. He referred to the materials under Tab F of the meeting packet for a list of the four reports the Commission is required to submit.

## **IX. COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

### **Update on Enhanced State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Senior Structural Engineer Fred Turner reported that the Commission submitted comments on the state's new Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, developed by OES. He noted that the plan is extremely important for California because it will determine the state's eligibility for enhanced disaster funding.

Chairman McGavin thanked Mr. Turner for his report.

### **Research Program Project Recommendations**

Chairman McGavin directed the Commission's attention to draft description of the Commission's request for research regarding the Field Act and the Statement of Qualifications. He said the Commission intends to use \$300,000 of the CRAF funds to contract with a public entity to conduct the research to determine the effectiveness of the Field Act and identify differences between Field Act and non-Field Act buildings. He asked commissioners who knew of potential researchers to provide their names to Staff Structural Engineer Henry Reyes within the next week.

Chairman McGavin noted that the Commission plans to distribute the request to interested proposers by the end of June, have informal discussions with respondents in July, receive proposals and conduct interviews in August, and award a contract in September. He recommended that the Commission establish an oversight committee to monitor the process. He proposed appointing two commissioners, Commissioner Cooley and Commissioner Klein, and inviting former Commissioner Shapiro and a school architect to participate on the oversight committee.

Mr. McCarthy added that each research project will have its own management team.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Klein made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Miletì, that:

*The Commission appoint the oversight committee as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 14 - 0.

Commissioner Mileti advised that good progress was being made on the statewide survey of household preparedness and mitigation. He said the task statements had been revised, and a reduced cost was negotiated with the UCLA contractor. He said the initial survey will cost about \$700,000, and the Institute of Business and Home Safety will provide \$30,000 for research and analysis.

Commissioner Mileti explained that the purpose of the survey is to catalog the current level of household preparedness and mitigation to make future public education and outreach efforts more effective. He said he hoped a second follow-up survey could be done in a year or so.

Mr. McCarthy noted that the staff will forward a copy of the survey and its description to the court and the Attorney General's Office and request permission to use CRAF funds to help pay for its costs. He said the Commission and OES are both considering contributing \$350,000 for this work.

## **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Commission.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF MEETING**

Commissioner Grace Koch asked if commissioners could obtain copies of the Art College Center of Design slide presentation. Mr. McCarthy replied that the staff will provide copies on diskette with sample public service announcements (PSA's).

Mr. McCarthy invited commissioners to view some PSA's about earthquake safety that were developed by students at the Art Center College of Design. Commissioner Jones said she met with the students and explained the fundamental messages that needed to be communicated, and the students created the PSA's. Using a laptop computer, she showed three examples.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Sue Celli  
Office Manager

Approved by:

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Richard McCarthy  
Executive Director