



State Of California

# ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

*Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor*

Chief Don Parker  
*Fire Protection*  
Chairman

Hon. Mark Church  
*Local Government*  
Vice Chair

Gary McGavin, AIA  
*Architectural Planning*

Dennis Mileti  
*Social Services*

Hon. Elaine Alquist  
*State Senate*

James Schwab  
*Senate Representative*

Hon. Sam Blakeslee  
*State Assembly*

Dr. Lucy Jones  
*Seismology*

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*

Bill Chubb  
*Utilities*

Sharron Leاون  
*Emergency Services*

Bradley Mitzelfelt  
*County Government*

Ali Sadre  
*Structural Engineering*

Michael Stevens  
*Insurance*

John Littrell  
*Mechanical Engineer*

Richard McCarthy  
Executive Director

Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission  
Minutes of Teleconference Meeting  
January 25, 2008  
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, California

## Members Participating

Don Parker, Chair  
Mark Church, Vice Chair  
Andrew Adelman (joined at 10:06 a.m.)  
Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli (joined at 10:41 a.m.)  
Jonathan Changus  
Ken Cooley  
Christina Curry  
Lucy Jones (joined at 10:06 a.m.)  
John Littrell  
Elizabeth Mathieson  
Gary McGavin  
Brad Mitzelfelt  
Ali Sadre  
James Schwab  
Michael Stevens  
David Walls

## Members Absent

William Chubb  
Sharon Leاون  
Dennis Mileti  
David Thorman

## Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director  
Karen Cogan, Executive Assistant  
Robert Anderson, Staff Geologist

## Others Participating

Kimberley Dellinger, PIF  
John Eiding, PG&E  
Lupe Humphrey, OES  
Stu Nishenko, PG&E

## I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Don Parker called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:03 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

## II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Parker welcomed the newest members of the Commission, Commissioner Christina Curry and Commissioner John Littrell.

### **III. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2007 MEETING MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Commissioner Ali Sadre made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Stevens, that:

*The Commission approve the minutes of the December 13 meeting.*

\* Motion carried, 9 - 0 - 4 (Commissioners Jonathan Changus, Curry, Littrell, and Gary McGavin abstaining; Commissioners Andrew Adelman, Kandiah Arulmoli, and Lucy Jones absent during voting).

Commissioners Adelman and Jones joined the teleconference.

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

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deobligation Repayment #2**

Executive Director Richard McCarthy noted the Commission authorized a \$70,000 repayment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the last meeting. Since then, the Governor ordered all state agencies to prepare for 10 percent across-the-board cuts to help address the state's estimated \$14.5 billion deficit. Staff received confirmation from the Agency there would be no budget reduction for the Commission for the 2008-09 fiscal year before forwarding the payment to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) last week. Mr. McCarthy said the Agency Secretary would like the remaining balance of \$73,000 to be repaid in June.

#### **Budget Status/Budget Reductions**

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to the budget update in the meeting packet and noted that the Commission's budget is in good shape, with a small projected year-end surplus. He cautioned that the Commission's funding could still be at risk because the Legislature has made cuts in special funds in the past.

Mr. McCarthy reported that the staff has been working with Agency and Department of Finance representatives to identify a new source of funding when the Commission's current funding arrangement with the Department of Insurance expires in 2009. He requested that the Commission authorize the chair and vice chair to assist the staff in responding to the Agency, the Department of Finance, and the Governor's Office as needed.

**ACTION:** Commissioner McGavin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ken Cooley, that:

*The Commission authorize the chair and vice chair to work with the staff as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 15 - 0 (Commissioner Arulmoli absent during voting).

#### **Status of Japan Investigative Team Report**

Mr. McCarthy said a draft report of the investigative trip to Japan was sent to the members of the investigative team and the Agency for review and comments. He noted the Commission will review a draft at the February meeting and approve a final version of the report in April.

## **V. CONTINUED DISCUSSION - EAST BAY UTILITY SYSTEM CORRIDOR SEISMIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT PROJECT -PROPRIETARY DATA**

Mr. McCarthy said that when this research project was presented at the last meeting, commissioners expressed concern about PG&E keeping certain security information proprietary. In response, staff worked with PG&E representatives to define what kind of information would be considered proprietary. Mr. McCarthy explained that because of the importance of lifelines like the Hetch Hetchy water system, information jeopardizing the security of critical facilities cannot be released due to terrorism concerns. He noted the staff is working with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of General Services (DGS) legal unit to clarify this point, and he drew attention to the draft language provided in the meeting packet. Mr. McCarthy added that there was also concern about noncompetitive bidding, and that issue has been addressed as well.

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission approve the PG&E research project as proposed.

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

*The Commission approve the East Bay Utility System Corridor Seismic Performance Assessment Project as proposed.*

\* Motion carried, 14 - 0 - 1 (Commissioner Littrell abstaining; Commissioner Arulmoli absent during voting).

## **VI. CONTINUED DISCUSSION - DISTANT TSUNAMI THREAT TO PORTS - NOAA**

Mr. McCarthy stated that the Commission approved this research project in concept at the last meeting, but there was concern that some of the work would duplicate OES' efforts. He reported that the staff discussed this issue with OES and concluded that the activities would be complementary, not redundant. He referred to the description in the meeting packet and advised that no further action was required.

Commissioner Betsy Mathieson recommended clarifying the project deliverables in the contract and the fact that there was no overlap with OES. She observed that this project will provide important information for state agencies and the ports.

## **VII. INVESTIGATIVE TEAM TO JAPAN - POWER SUPPLY STUDY**

Mr. McCarthy noted that the Commission approved sending an investigative team to Japan in October to look at economic and social impacts of the July earthquake in Nagata Prefecture, and at the same time, the Commission also approved in concept sending a second team later to focus on power plant issues. He recommended that the Commission authorize the staff to make the arrangements to send a second team.

Mr. McCarthy said the first team's investigation was funded through the Commission's earthquake investigation account. For the second investigation, staff proposes working with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to fulfill the AB 1632 (Blakeslee) mandate for the Seismic Safety Commission and the California Geological Survey to advise and assist CEC in studying the safety of California's power plants. He reported that the CEC has hired a contractor to prepare a report on the investigation.

Mr. McCarthy indicated that Secretary Marin would like to form a three- to five-person team, including one commissioner, to visit the nuclear reactor site and power facilities in Japan, meet with utility representatives and government regulators, and hear a presentation on Japan's early warning system. He said the trip will take place between March 15 and March 22, and the team will spend one day at the

Nagata nuclear facility and one day visiting a nuclear power facility in Shizuoka Prefecture. After the trip, the Commission will advise the CEC regarding the information available and key issues for inclusion in the contractor's report. Mr. McCarthy stated that the cost of the trip will be approximately \$29,500. He recommended that the Commission approve sending Commissioner Ali Sadre, Assemblyman Blakeslee, and Mr. McCarthy.

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

*The Commission approve sending a second investigative team to Japan as proposed.*

Commissioner Cooley observed that California experienced major storms in January that resulted in power outages throughout the state, affecting public safety, security, and medical services, and similar problems occur after large earthquakes. He said maintaining power is a vital area for California to maintain resilience after an earthquake. He expressed support for this collaborative investigation with the CEC and expressed his opinion that the purpose of the research fits well with the Commission's research objectives.

Commissioner Cooley noted that the area impacted by the Japanese earthquake is similar to the San Francisco Bay Area, and a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault would have a substantial effect on California's urban areas and lifelines. He emphasized the need to pursue this research regardless of budget constraints. He pointed out that California's earthquake peril remain whether the state's fiscal condition is good or bad.

Mr. McCarthy recommended authorizing selection of an alternate if Assemblyman Blakeslee is unable to travel. Commissioner Cooley amended his motion to include flexibility for the chair to assign an alternate, and Commissioner Arulmoli accepted the amendment.

\* Motion carried, 16 - 0.

### **VIII. PUBLIC OUTREACH/EDUCATION SUGGESTIONS FROM AGENCY SECRETARY**

Mr. McCarthy informed the Commission that Secretary Marin is interested in having a statewide earthquake safety and preparedness event like the national event in Japan. He said he spoke with Mr. Henry Renteria, OES, who expressed concern about the potential financial impact on local governments.

Mr. McCarthy advised that the Seismic Safety Commission is already participating in the Southern California exercise next November. In addition, the Commission approved a research grant to the Arts Center College of Design for an extensive public education and outreach effort and a mega-cities conference. He said it might be possible to have a statewide event if the Governor orders a drop-cover-hold drill for state agencies and schools, but it will be difficult to find resources for much more.

Commissioner Jones indicated that she would be making a presentation on the November Shake-Out event at the Commission's February meeting. She added that the date of the mega-cities conference has not yet been announced.

Mr. McCarthy remarked that Secretary Marin might not be aware of these outreach activities.

Commissioner Cooley noted the First Lady has expressed strong interest in public outreach efforts. He recommended contacting the First Lady's office and promoting the idea with cities and counties.

Commissioner Curry reported that OES has been in contact with the First Lady, and that dialogue will be continuing. She added that OES will take the lead in seeing what can be done.

**IX. ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. McCarthy said the Commission will review the draft annual report at the February 14 meeting.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. John Eiding, PG&E, said he had some questions about the PG&E research project, and Mr. McCarthy indicated he would call Mr. Eiding after the meeting.

**XI. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF MEETING**

Ms. Cogan reminded commissioners to send their completed Fair Political Practices Commission disclosure forms to the Commission office by February 25 so they can be submitted by the March 1 deadline.

Ms. Cogan informed that the next Commission meeting was scheduled for February 14, 2008, at the Holiday Inn. She said there will be no March meeting, and the staff will let commissioners know when a location for the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting has been determined.

**XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

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Sue Celli  
Office Manager

Approved by:

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Richard McCarthy  
Executive Director