



State Of California

**ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission
Minutes of Meeting
June 12, 2008
State Capitol, Room 4202
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Don Parker, Chair
Mark Church, Vice Chair
Andrew Adelman (arrived at 10:43 a.m.)
Kandiah (Arul)Arulmoli
Jonathan Changus (arrived at 1:15 p.m.)
William Chubb
Christina Curry
Lucy Jones
Sharron Leاون
John Littrell
Elizabeth Mathieson
Gary McGavin
Dennis Mileti
Brad Mitzelfelt
Ali Sadre
James Schwab
Michael Stevens
David Thorman

Members Absent

Ken Cooley
Dave Walls

Staff Participating

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

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Don Parker called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Assistant Karen Cogan called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

II. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Parker congratulated Vice Chairman Mark Church and Commissioner Brad Mitzelfelt for their victories in the recent election.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Elizabeth Mathieson drew attention to the summary of the remarks made by Janet Gunter on Page 7, and noted the next-to-last sentence implies the Commission agrees with Ms. Gunter's statement that the gas facility is located on the fault; she suggested inserting "reportedly" or some other qualification to clarify that Ms. Gunter's assertion has not been verified.

ACTION: Commissioner Mark Church made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kandiah Arulmoli, that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the April 10, 2008 meeting as amended.

* Motion carried, 16 - 0 (Commissioners Andrew Adelman and Jonathan Changus absent during voting).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget

Executive Director Richard McCarthy said the Commission will be facing difficult challenges because of likely budget reductions in the months ahead. He reported that the staff's year-end budget projections are close to Contracted Fiscal Services' figures. He recommended authorizing the staff to make a final payment to satisfy the remaining obligation to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to spend the estimated \$17,000 surplus on replacement of office computers and server, copies of DVD's and lesson plans for the "Quake Ready" video; with any remaining balance to be added to the Contracted Fiscal Services contract for next year.

Final Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deobligation Repayment

Mr. McCarthy requested that the Commission authorize a final repayment of approximately \$74,000.

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

The Commission authorize the proposed repayment to FEMA and the end-of-year expenses proposed by the staff.

* Motion carried, 16 - 0 (Commissioners Adelman and Changus absent during voting).

Mr. McCarthy thanked the Commission and noted the FEMA repayment ends 13 years of conflict.

2008-09 Budget

Mr. McCarthy expressed concern that the state will direct all agencies to make more drastic cuts than anticipated to offset the state budget deficit. He noted that the staff presented a scenario for a 12 percent reduction in April, but the exact extent of the reduction has yet to be determined.

Mr. McCarthy drew attention to a list of funds within the State and Consumer Agency that were identified by the Legislature as possible sources for borrowing. He said all special funds, including the Commission's research funds, are vulnerable to this kind of "borrowing." He explained that the Department of Finance proposes taking funds from special deposit funds this year and repaying them in 2010-11 or beyond. He recommended that the Commission suspend any further research contracts until the status of the research funds and the extent of budget reductions are determined. Mr. McCarthy noted that the staff will call an emergency meeting of the Planning and Budget Committee once the situation becomes definite, and the full Commission may need to meet via teleconference to take action.

Mr. McCarthy said the meeting handout also includes a list of pro rata fees paid by the Seismic Safety Commission for services rendered by other state agencies. He noted the staff is occasionally asked to review the work of contractors or other agencies, and he recommended that the Commission begin to charge for that review time. He asked the Commission to authorize the staff to develop a fee-for-services program.

ACTION: Commissioner Church made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary McGavin, that:

The Commission authorize the staff to begin charging for services as proposed.

* Motion carried, 16 - 0 (Commissioners Adelman and Changus absent during voting).

Mr. McCarthy informed commissioners that there could be a long delay before the Governor/Legislature approves the 2008-09 budget. He suggested that the Commission hold a meeting in Sacramento in August if the budget has been approved, and noted there may be an emergency teleconference meeting sometime sooner. He proposed scheduling a meeting in Sacramento on September 11, skipping October, and meeting in Los Angeles on November 14 in conjunction with the earthquake conference.

Ms. Cogan said the Commission will be appointing a Nominations Committee at the next regular meeting, and then officers will be elected at the following meeting.

V. AMERICAN RED CROSS BAY AREA -- ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES & PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Gregory A. Smith, Chief Public Support Officer, American Red Cross Bay Area, provided an overview of the Red Cross organization and its international affiliates. He noted that the American Red Cross is the nation's premier disaster preparedness and relief agency, with

approximately 500,000 volunteers, 35,000 staff, and over 700 chapters in the U.S. He discussed the Red Cross' role in providing shelter, food, healthcare, and other assistance to victims of disasters. Mr. Smith stated that the Red Cross has memoranda of understanding with the Office of Emergency Services and Department of Social Services in California, and local Red Cross chapters work in operational areas throughout the state.

Mr. Smith described the American Red Cross's strategic initiatives to address catastrophic event readiness in three areas: community preparedness; community sheltering and mass care; and relief agency coordination and collaboration. He said seven Red Cross chapters in Northern California are embarked on a \$65-million five-year program based on a 1906 earthquake planning scenario.

Mr. Smith said the Red Cross hopes to apply lessons learned in the Hurricane Katrina response to its initiatives by identifying 500 new shelters, training 20,000 more volunteers, increasing emergency supplies, and improving coordination with local organizations. He noted that people need to expect to be self-sufficient for five to seven days after a major disasters.

Mr. Smith described some of the American Red Cross' earthquake mitigation and preparedness educational programs; special services for the elderly; and work with the World Institute on Disability to ensure that shelters can meet special needs. He said the Red Cross welcomes an opportunity to partner with the Seismic Safety Commission.

Commissioner Church asked about the model program to assist the elderly in Napa and Solano Counties and whether it would be expanded to other counties. Mr. Smith stated that the program focuses on personal preparedness and outreach; he added that the Red Cross intends to expand the program, and San Mateo County would be included.

Commissioner Jones asked if the Red Cross conducts any structural safety inspections of buildings used as shelters. Mr. Smith answered that the Red Cross does a physical inspection of the facilities, but it does not include a structural assessment. Commissioner Jones suggested contacting the Structural Engineers Association of California about engineers who might be willing to donate structural inspection services.

Commissioner Adelman complimented the Red Cross for a job well done and asked how the Seismic Safety Commission could be of help. Mr. Smith welcomed assistance in getting funds for earthquake preparedness and training.

Chairman Parker thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation.

VI. VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOAD) -- ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES & PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Barbara Dröher Kline, past president, Nor Cal VOAD, and president, Lutheran Services of Northern California, explained that VOAD's work in collaborative partnerships with 41 national partner organizations focuses on long-term recovery needs. She said partner organizations draw

from a common pool of funds, and she emphasized the importance of cooperation, communication, collaboration, and coordination.

Ms. Kline described Lutheran Disaster Response, a VOAD member, in more detail. She said Lutheran Disaster Response, like many other faith-based organizations, specializes in a certain aspect of disaster response; she noted that Lutheran Disaster Response's 37 affiliates maintain a case management database that is used by other relief agencies to identify vulnerable children and families. Ms. Kline talked about Lutheran Disaster Response's participation in the Lake Tahoe fire response effort.

Ms. Kline emphasized the need for effective county VOAD organizations in California. She said challenges facing VOAD include aging volunteers and inadequate capacity.

Chairman Parker thanked Ms. Kline for her presentation.

VII. CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS -- ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES & PROGRAM UPDATE

Commissioner Leao, California Volunteers, explained that California Volunteers was established by two executive orders to serve as the lead agency in California for coordinating use of volunteers in disaster response. She said Cal Volunteers works with many other partners to train volunteers, establish mutual aid networks, and manage spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers.

Commissioner Leao discussed Cal Volunteers' effort to establish a California Disaster Corps as an overarching statewide framework for training, certifying, and classifying volunteers. She highlighted key program elements, and said work groups will focus on three areas: training, typing, certification, and qualifications; security screening and identification; and technology solutions. She added that there will be some program deliverables within a year.

Commissioner Leao stated that Cal Volunteers has been working with OES to develop a statewide emergency plan, and eight disaster volunteer summits were held as part of that effort. She said a statewide preparedness campaign was launched in February with the California Readiness Advisory Group. She showed an example of a customizable family disaster plan available on the Cal Volunteers Website. She added that Cal Volunteers is awaiting the results of the household mitigation survey and will work with the Seismic Safety Commission, OES, and other organizations to apply the results.

Commissioner Leao invited commissioners to attend a White House conference in Sacramento on August 18, and she offered to provide further details to the staff.

At 12:00 noon, the Commission recessed for lunch. Chairman Parker reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

VIII. COMMISSION REVIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (SFPUC) WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Commissioner Mathieson presented a draft report on the ad hoc committee's review of the changes proposed to the SFPUC's water system improvement program. She explained that the SFPUC began a capital improvement program to the Hetch Hetchy regional water distribution in 2002. She said the SFPUC is required to notify Seismic Safety Commission and the Department of Public Health of any changes that affect the schedule or scope of its work, a process that was followed in 2006, when the Commission compared revisions to the original 2002 work plans.

Commissioner Mathieson noted that the Commission received notification of certain changes on April 1, which began a 90-day review and comment period. She indicated that the scope of the Commission's review is limited to policy issues, not technical matters, and she drew attention to the disclaimer on Page 2 of the draft report. Commissioner Mathieson stated that the committee may need to request a two-week extension of the July 1 deadline to incorporate additional SFPUC responses in the report. She recommended that the Commission delegate authority to the committee to finalize the report and present it to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for approval. She thanked Mr. Turner for his assistance and support.

Commissioner Mathieson advised that the changes proposed by the SFPUC will significantly delay some individual projects, but not the overall program, and although there are no deletions, there are some changes in scope that could be important. Commissioner Mathieson reported that the committee identified a number of issues outside the Commission's purview, but potentially relevant to the conclusions regarding the proposed changes to the water system improvement program. She said the committee recommends an independent review process to address the technical questions, and she welcomed the Commission's guidance as to how the report should handle those issues.

Commissioner Mathieson said one significant change is the reduction in seismic design criteria, resulting in design parameters that are lower than national standards. She noted that the committee asked the SFPUC for additional information, but a response has not yet been received. She added that SFPUC did indicate that the 2005 levels of service targets are still being met.

Commissioner Mathieson stated that tangential issues of concern to the committee were the availability of SFPUC personnel to respond after emergencies, the proposal not to retrofit one large pipeline across the Hayward Fault that provides redundancy for the system, and aspects of the design of the Coast Range Tunnel. She identified these as technical issues warranting independent review. Commissioner Mathieson commented that the level of service goals apply to potable water delivery, and it should also be noted that the Hetch Hetchy system may still be able to deliver significant quantities of unfiltered water for firefighting purposes.

Commissioner Mathieson requested that the Commission authorize the committee to request a two-week deadline extension. Mr. McCarthy recommended a one-month extension to allow sufficient time to finalize the report. Mr. Rillera advised that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee is likely to be receptive to the request if the Commission explains the technical nature of the issues involved.

Mr. Arthur Jensen, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, commented that the value of the Commission's review of the SFPUC water system improvement project has been demonstrated by the thoroughness of the committee's review and the questions raised. He said BAWSCA members also want to know if the reduction in design standards represents a program change. He offered to write to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee in support of the Commission's request for a deadline extension to allow more time to answer this question.

Mr. Jensen recommended that the Commission clarify the issues requiring further technical review, determine the composition of the review group, and establish deadlines for completing this task. Commissioner Mathieson indicated that the commission envisioned an independent review by a group not part of the Seismic Safety Commission. Mr. McCarthy said the SFPUC should fund the review; Commissioner Church noted that the Commission should have a hand in the selection of the reviewers.

Mr. McCarthy proposed that the report recommend that the SFPUC and Seismic Safety Commission work together to appoint an independent review panel, funded by the SFPUC, to provide answers to the technical questions identified by the committee. Commissioners expressed support for this approach.

Mr. McCarthy suggested waiting for a response from SFPUC, and then revising the report as necessary. He said the staff will draft a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee requesting a 30-day deadline extension and explaining the reasons.

ACTION: Commissioner Mathieson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Adelman, that:

The Commission authorize the staff to request a one-month extension, delegate authority to the committee to finalize the report, and authorize the chair and vice chair to approve the final version.

* Motion carried, 17 - 0 (Commissioner Thorman absent during voting).

IX. BRIEFING ON THE SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE

Commissioner Jones gave a presentation on the magnitude 7.9 earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in central China on May 12, 2008. She noted that she studied this particular fault in detail as part of her Ph.D. thesis. She showed a map of the epicenter, a diagram of the fault and surrounding basin, and a shake map of the earthquake. She pointed out that the area affected is similar in size to the Los Angeles Basin. Commissioner Jones observed that a 200-mile fault rupture lasting 100 seconds would have disastrous consequences in an area populated by over 14 million people. She predicted that such an event would overwhelm existing emergency response capabilities and present challenges to long-term recovery. She noted that a large earthquake would trigger hazards like landslides and fires that would place additional strain on emergency responders.

Commissioner Jones remarked that the collapse of schools in the Sichuan earthquake again underscores the value of the Field Act and its higher standards. She cautioned that the Field Act only applies to K-12 schools, not private schools and universities. She noted there are also many non-ductile concrete and tilt-up buildings at risk constructed in the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's.

X. UPDATE ON EARTHQUAKE SCENARIOS

Southern California

Commissioner Jones provided copies of a USGS circular describing the Southern California ShakeOut earthquake scenario. She reported that a kickoff meeting was held, and a series of events are being organized.

Northern California

Chairman Parker said the 1868 Hayward Earthquake Alliance is working on a special anniversary event on October 21, plus other exhibits and activities. He noted that fire after a major earthquake will be a threat affecting the entire state.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP) Advisory Committee

Commissioner Sadre indicated that the SMIP Advisory Committee would like to add representatives from DSA and the Office of Statewide Healthcare Planning and Development.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS & GOOD OF MEETING

There were no other items brought to the Commission's attention.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Sue Celli
Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director