



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Minutes of Teleconference Meeting
July 9, 2009
1755 Creekside Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, California

Members Participating

Mark Church, Chair
Andrew Adelman (joined at 9:06 a.m.)
Kandiah (Arul) Arulmoli
William Chubb
Christina Curry
Lucy Jones
Sharron Leao
John Littrell (joined at 9:05 a.m.)
Elizabeth Mathieson
Gary McGavin (joined at 9:15 a.m.)
Dennis Mileti
Don Parker
Ali Sadre
Michael Stevens (joined at 9:06 a.m.)
David Thorman (joined at 9:09 a.m.)

Members Absent

Jonathan Changus
Brad Mitzelfelt
James Schwab
David Walls

Staff Participating

Richard McCarthy, Executive Director
Karen Cogan, Administrative Officer
Henry Reyes, Special Projects Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commission Chairman Mark Church called the meeting of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. Administrative Officer Karen Cogan called the roll and noted that a quorum was not yet present.

II. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Ms. Cogan informed the Commission that Staff Geologist Robert Anderson had suffered a mild stroke on July 7 and had been hospitalized. She said Mr. Anderson was expected to be discharged from the hospital soon.

Chairman Church welcomed Commissioner John Littrell and noted that a quorum was present.

Chairman Church advised that the Legislature had made no progress in approving a budget. He said state agencies had been ordered to cut operating expenses by 15 percent. He observed that the state’s fiscal crisis has reached unprecedented proportions and was likely to continue to deteriorate. He added that Governor Schwarzenegger indicated that he would not be making any appointments until a budget was approved, so the Commission might lose seven commissioners as of July 13.

III. APPROVAL OF MAY 2009 MINUTES

ACTION: Commissioner Dennis Mileti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Arul Arulmoli that:

The Commission approve the minutes of the May 14 Commission meeting as presented.

- * Motion carried, 12 – 0 - 1 (Commissioner Elizabeth Mathieson abstaining; Commissioners David Thorman and Gary McGavin absent during voting).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Richard McCarthy proposed taking the Earthquake Preparedness Survey report before other agenda items to accommodate Commissioner Thorman’s schedule.

Budget

Mr. McCarthy noted that all state agencies had been ordered to reduce operating expenses by 15 percent and take an additional furlough day each month or reduce staff salaries by 5 percent. He advised that the Commission will be able to absorb these cuts, but the office will be closed the first three Fridays of every month. He added that the staff will post a “closed” sign on the door and include a notice on the Website.

Governor’s Executive Order and Research Program Update

Mr. McCarthy reported that Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order requiring state agencies to reduce all contracts by 15%, if possible, but there is a process that makes an exception for programs established by court order, such as the Commission’s research program. He said the Commission will submit an exemption request to the Agency for the entire research fund.

September 9-10 Commission Meeting

Mr. McCarthy reminded commissioners of the September 9 and 10 meeting in Monterey.

Ms. Cogan asked commissioners to save those dates. She said the Monterey meeting will take place at the Portola Hotel and will feature a field trip the afternoon of Wednesday, September 9. She added that she hoped the meeting would garner good media coverage.

October 15 Commission Meeting and Shakeout Activities

Mr. McCarthy noted that the Commission would be meeting in San Francisco on October 15 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. He advised that the focus of the meeting will be earthquake preparedness and said the staff was trying to arrange for presentations by the city staff.

Ms. Cogan noted that there will be a statewide drop, cover and hold drill and other activities planned for October 16. She said the staff is reserving rooms at the Hotel Whitcomb near the Civic Center.

VI. ADOPTION OF EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS SURVEY REPORT (Out of Order)

Mr. McCarthy recommended that the Commission review and approve the draft report on the household mitigation survey. He said the staff will work with Professor Linda Bourque of the University of California at Los Angeles, Commissioner Mileti, the California Volunteers organization, and the

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to finalize the report and submit it jointly to the Governor's Office for approval.

Professor Bourque summarized revisions made since the last meeting. She said more findings were added at the beginning of the document, the findings and recommendations were tied in with the various chapters, other aspects of the research were mentioned in the text and at the end of the report, and Chapters 3 and 4 were edited to clarify the data that led to the findings and recommendations.

Commissioner Mileti proposed several more changes: he recommended inserting the word "information" between "mitigation" and "programs" in the first line of the first paragraph on Page 5; inserting the word "to" between "lead" and "loss" in Finding 6; changing the last line in the paragraph under Finding 8 to end with the words "little effect on motivating people to prepare"; deleting the references to Palm Springs and Chico from the next-to-last sentence in Finding 9 and substituting "high-risk versus lower-risk communities" instead; changing "so many" to "some" in the last line of Finding 9 and omitting the words "the majority of their" between "miss" and "audience"; and in the last sentence under Recommendation 4 on Page 19, inserting "in Southern California" after "San Andreas fault" and "area" after "Los Angeles" and changing "Palm Springs" to "desert."

Mr. McCarthy welcomed suggestions from commissioners regarding the title of the report. After brief discussion, Commissioner Jones proposed "A Study of Household Preparedness: Preparing California for Earthquakes," and other commissioners expressed support for this title.

ACTION: Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mileti, that:

The Commission approve the revisions as proposed.

* Motion carried, 15 - 0.

Chairman Church thanked Professor Bourque and Commissioner Mileti for their efforts. He also thanked Commissioner Jones for her thorough review of the draft report.

Commissioner Jones recommended including the survey questionnaire specifications in the products listed at the end of the document. She asked whether the data obtained through the survey would be archived at UCLA and made available to other researchers. She said she would like to mention the survey data at a congressional hearing on July 29. Professor Bourque indicated that she also wished to use the data. Mr. McCarthy indicated that the staff would confer with Cal EMA and the Cal Volunteers organization, the Commission's research partners, about releasing the raw data.

Professor Bourque stated that the Commission's proposed revisions would be incorporated in the report and the appendix would be finalized later that day.

V. THE FIELD ACT AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN REDUCING EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS - REPORT UPDATE

Special Projects Manager Henry Reyes noted that in April 2008, the Commission approved a research project to study and document the effectiveness of the Field Act. He said the review committee met with representatives from San Francisco State University on June 25 and was in the process of reviewing the final draft. He advised that the committee expects to complete the report at its August 4 meeting so it can be reviewed by the Commission in September and approved in October.

Chairman Church thanked Mr. Reyes for the update and said the Commission looks forward to seeing the results of the study.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND GOOD OF THE MEETING

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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Office Manager

Approved by:

Richard McCarthy
Executive Director