

**SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

1755 CREEKSIDE OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833  
(916) 263-5506  
(916) 263-0594 FAX  
INTERNET: www.seismic.ca.gov

**Memorandum**

October 4, 2005

**To:** Commissioners

**From:** Henry Sepulveda, Director of Legislative Affairs  
Veronica Ramirez, Legislative Intern

**Subj:** Legislative Report for October Commission Meeting

This memorandum is divided into two parts:

- I. Summary of Commission-monitored bills.
- II. List of proposed legislative ideas for 2006.

**I. CHAPTERED LEGISLATION**

**AB 584 (Blakeslee)**, signed into law by the Governor on July 21, is a technical clean-up measure that deletes obsolete provisions in the Government Code relating to a 1991 Earthquake Technologies Conference organized by the Commission. This Commission-sponsored bill also closes a dormant account related to the 1991 Conference and transfers residual funds remaining in the special account (< \$500).

**SB 477 (Soto and Alarcon)**, signed into law by the Governor on September 29, authorizes (on a permissive basis) OES to establish a model disaster recovery process. The process (plan) is to be shared with local communities to expedite recovery from a Governor-declared disaster. This proposal for a post-disaster recovery plan is similar in concept to previous legislation sponsored by the Commission in 1999-2000. The Commission had a "Support" position on the 2005 legislation.

**SB 546 (Dutton)**, signed into law by the Governor on September 13, authorizes OES to enter into agreements with private sector firms. This bill is intended to integrate private sector emergency preparedness activities with public disaster planning programs. The coordination of public-private ventures (systems and facilities) shall be done on a voluntary basis, and will be supported solely by donated funds (grants and private sources).

**SB 1054 (Soto)** was signed into law by the Governor on July 19. This bill:

- (1) Establishes that the UBC (California Building Code) applies to charter school facilities, unless pre-empted by the Field Act;
- (2) Imposes a January 2007 deadline for non-compliant charter school facilities to achieve compliance with this bill's requirements;
- (3) Exempts charter school facilities that are owned or controlled by federal agencies; and
- (4) Clarifies that local building agencies would be responsible for applying and enforcing the building codes on covered charter school facilities.

#### BILLS PENDING ON GOVERNOR'S DESK

As of October 4, the following bills, all of which have been passed by the Legislature (Senate and Assembly), were on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. The Governor must act (sign or veto) these bills before October 9, or they become law without his signature.

**AB 1374 (Liu)**, a Commission-sponsored bill, extends the sunset on the Commission's current funding mechanism from July 2007 to July 2013.

**AB 304 (Hancock)** authorizes –on a voluntary basis–local governments to establish programs to regulate “soft-story” buildings in the local jurisdictions. The Commission has adopted a “Support” position on this measure.

**AB 1200 (Laird)** orders, among other terms, the Department of Water Resources to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system (including the levees) to natural disasters, including earthquakes.

## **II. LEGISLATIVE IDEAS FOR 2006**

The second half of the 2005-06 Legislative Session begins in January 2006. New bills may be introduced in January and February 2006. Typically, the Commission determines during the last quarter of the calendar year those bills it wishes to sponsor in the following year. Commission staff then arranges for drafting of the proposed legislative initiatives, and contact legislators interested in carrying Commission-designated bills. The bills must be introduced by late February.

The following is a list of Commission-sponsored legislative initiatives for consideration for introduction in 2006. This list originates from several Commission sources—The Earthquake Loss Reduction Plan, Commissioners, communications with subject-area experts and stakeholders, and legislators and legislative staff.

Staff requests that Commissioners review the various proposals. They will be discussed more fully at the November 2006 Commission meeting. When the Commissioners decide on the measures to pursue for 2006, staff will conduct further research in November and December.

1. **Costco/Sam's Club Earthquake/Disaster Supply Agreement**— *Make contingency arrangements with these retailers so that State/local agencies may obtain post-disaster supplies on an expedited basis*
2. **High Storage Racks revisited**-- *In 2001, the Commission sponsored legislation imposing safety measures on the retailers utilizing high storage racks in public areas where consumers may shop. The Commission-measure was subsequently dropped, but a competing bill was adopted imposing some restrictions on high storage racks. The Commission may wish to investigate the implementation of this law.*
3. **Tsunami Report Recommendations**— *Legislative measures carrying out the recommendations of this pending report.*
4. **Potentially-hazardous Buildings Law ("URM Law")**--
  - a. *Set mandatory future demolition date for current URM's*
  - b. *Require mandatory "soft-story" local mitigation plans*
  - c. *Establish mandatory "tilt-up" local mitigation plans*
5. **Pre-alteration Seismic Evaluations for Existing Buildings**—*Require that existing buildings that are proposed for improvement or remodeling must undergo a seismic evaluation as a pre-condition of the building permit.*
6. **Clean-up of Seismic Safety Commission Organic Act**—*Technical clean-up of obsolete references and provisions, update of superceded statutes*
7. **Residential Care Facilities in Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act**—*Add residential care facilities to the Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Act*
8. **Placarding of SPC-1 Hospital Facilities**—*Require posting of signs on greatest collapse-hazard hospitals.*
9. **Alquist Hospital Seismic Safety Deadline**--
  - a) *Extend existing deadlines for acute-care facilities*
  - b) *Prioritize deadlines to apply to SPC-1 facilities first.*
10. **Recovery Initiatives**—*Require local disaster preparedness plans to designate large facilities to house displaced populations.*
11. **Emergency Response Initiatives**-- *Integrate certain clinics into local medical and health mutual-aid system.*
12. **Preparedness Initiatives**--
  - a). *Awards for letter of certification for compliance with school-site preparedness (S-SEMS)*
  - b) *Require stockpile of emergency supplies in schools*

**13. Education and Information Initiatives--**

- a) Establish license renewals for building professionals*
- b) Develop K-12 earthquake curriculum*
- c) Develop “all-hazards” training for teachers*