



State of Utah

UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

T. Leslie Youd
Chairperson

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UTAH SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MAY 10, 1995 State Office Building Room 1112 Minutes

Members Present:

Chair, Les Youd	Chairman, BYU Civil Engineering Department
Lee Allison	Director, Utah Geological Survey
Walter Arabasz	Director, University of Utah Seismograph Stations
Lorayne Frank	Director, Comprehensive Emergency Management
James Golden	Assistant Chief Structural Engineer, Department of Transportation
Peter Knudson	Utah State House of Representatives
Suzanne Winters	Science Advisor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Members Excused or Absent:

James Bailey	Structural Engineers Association of Utah
Douglas Bodrero	Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Kenneth Bullock	Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns
William Juszczak	Project Coordinator, Division of Facilities Construction and Management
Craig Peterson	Utah State Senate
Dave Prothero	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Ex-Officio)
Barry Smith	American Institute of Architects, Utah Chapter
Randall Updike	U.S. Geological Survey (Ex-Officio)

CEM Staff Present:

Bob Carey	Earthquake Program Manager, Natural Hazards Section
Brenda Edwards	Office Technician, Natural Hazards Section
John Rokich	Natural Hazard Section Chief
Judy Watanabe	Planner, Natural Hazards Section

UGS Staff Present:

Gary Christenson	Applied Geology Manager
Janine Jarva	Senior Geological Technician



Call to Order:

Chairman Les Youd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Les introduced Representative Peter Knudson. Representative Knudson will replace Representative Clark Reber on the Commission.

Rep. Knudson stated that he is the State Representative for District 2, has served as Mayor of Brigham City for 12 years, and prior to that served on the City Council. He has served at the state level as Chairman of the State Job Training Coordinating Council. He is an orthodontist by profession.

Meeting with the Governor:

Suzanne recommended that the Commission be succinct and specific in its presentation to Governor Leavitt. She suggested that we inform the Governor of what we have done, what our next goals are, and how the Governor can help us achieve those goals (i.e. what we want from him). She said that the points made in sections I. and II. of the proposed outline for the meeting with the Governor (see attached) could serve as our introduction. She also suggested that a brief fact sheet of the impacts and damage that would occur from a major Wasatch Front earthquake, would be useful for the Governor.

Rep. Knudson and Lorayne Frank said they would be unable to attend the meeting that is currently scheduled with the Governor. After further discussion among the Commission, it was decided to postpone the meeting. Suzanne will cancel the May 15, 1995 meeting and try to schedule another meeting in early July. She will inform the Commission when a date is set.

Initiatives to be presented to the Governor:

Four priorities were discussed for possible presentation to the Governor: the strong-motion program (Strategy 4.8), improving earthquake awareness and education (Strategy 1.1), updating the loss-estimation study (Strategy 5.1), and funding for a permanent FTE to act as staff for the Commission. Suzanne asked for a detailed breakdown of costs to implement the seven high-priority strategies. Some of these strategies would fall to state agencies to implement. Lee and Lorayne indicated that their state agencies were not likely to prioritize the necessary actions high enough in their budget deliberations to receive funding if the money had to come from existing budgets. They both felt that the Governor's budget needed to include new money for new programs if any actions were to be achieved.

The Commission feels that more would be accomplished in a shorter time frame if the Commission had a full-time, paid staff person to rely upon. In addition to necessary administrative work, this person could be the Commission's day-to-day contact with the constituencies we want to influence as well as finding sources of and applying for possible outside funding to achieve our goals. Lee stated that it would be more cost effective to have an

FTE than contracting with someone. But it is always difficult to get the Legislature to create new FTEs, especially now.

Suzanne commented that the counties are putting planning documents into place for the future. A proactive action that the Commission could take is to encourage incorporation of earthquake planning into their planning documents. Les said that if this Commission had a full-time staff person, they could coordinate with county planners, educational leaders, the professional community, and the general citizenry to coordinate earthquake awareness and action plans. Suzanne commented that if earthquake awareness is widespread throughout the corporate and public sector, the goals of the Commission will be met more easily. Rep. Knudson stated that the awareness and education initiative is very timely. He said that mayors and other community leaders, counties and local governments are all eager for information and help. He feels that the public is primed and ready for action on the part of state leadership. Getting the Governor on board will put him out on the leading edge on earthquake issues. For his part, Rep. Knudson says that he intends to be an activist legislator on these issues and will do as much as he can to move these issues forward. Lorayne discussed the possibilities of public education through television. Suzanne suggested that we involve the utility companies like UP & L and Mt. Fuel in sponsoring public service announcements as well as in our standing committees. Lorayne suggested that the Association of Contingency Planners could be used to reach the business community. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget could work together with local planners to include corporations into their county strategic plans.

Les stated that the strong-motion program is important. But it has a very high price tag. Lee summarized what the UGS has done with its one-time strong-motion instrument funding (an agreement is in place with the USGS to maintain and monitor the seven instruments purchased) and the recommendations of the Strong-Motion Advisory Council. Walter reviewed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon panel that included the possibility of phasing in the minimum necessary strong-motion instrument coverage over 20 years and therefore spreading out the cost. (He also pointed out that at the end of 20 years, new technology would have made our instruments obsolete.) Suzanne recommended that the Governor be advised that the strong-motion program can be phased in over a period of time. Installing strong-motion instruments in the facilities of various major industries would provide them with useful engineering information when an earthquake strikes. Suzanne suggested using utility companies as advocates to promote installation of more instruments. She thought that the meeting with the Governor could be strengthened by having members of the utility companies present because they have a strong voice with the Legislature. Jim informed the Commission that UDOT is planning a seven-year program to rebuild portions of the I-15 corridor with FHA funding. 168 bridges will be replaced as part of this program. There will not be a better opportunity to install strong-motion instruments because this FHA funding will not be available at a later time. UDOT would not be able to monitor the instruments after installation and it is uncertain if the USGS could take on

USSC Minutes
Special Meeting
May 10, 1995
Page 4 of 4

that responsibility with the impending cutbacks that agency may be facing.

Walter pointed out that an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the potential losses due to a major earthquake occurring somewhere along the Wasatch Front is very important when we are trying to convince and motivate businesspersons to undertake planning and mitigation measures now. Gary pointed out that the national methodology for loss-estimation updates is still in the development and testing process. As a result, costs to implement it are uncertain at this time. Les pointed out that the methodology will be tested in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area this year and that we should wait for an evaluation of its effectiveness before proceeding to implement it in Utah.

It was suggested that only two specific objectives be presented to the Governor: the strong-motion program initiative and the earthquake education and awareness initiative. Lee was assigned to further develop the strong motion initiative, and Lorayne was assigned the earthquake education and awareness initiative. They are to prepare solid numbers for the Governor.

The next meeting will be either the week of the 19th of June or the 3rd of July. The Commission will be advised of the date for the meeting. One more meeting will be set before the meeting with the Governor to solidify our presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Edwards