

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

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**Seismic Safety Commission
Resolution 90-04**

WHEREAS, The State of California is at risk from damaging earthquakes, having experienced such earthquakes in 1906 in northern California, 1925 in Santa Barbara, 1933 in Long Beach, 1952 in Kern County, 1971 in San Fernando Valley, 1979 in Imperial County, 1983 in Coalinga, 1987 in Whittier, 1989 in Santa Cruz and the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake was the most expensive natural disaster ever to strike the United States of America, causing 63 deaths and over six billion dollars (\$6,000,000,000) in damage. In addition, there were 3,800 injuries and more than 25,000 buildings damaged or destroyed; and

WHEREAS, The chance of a major earthquake striking either the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area or the San Francisco Bay Area at any time is estimated to be at ninety percent (90%); and

WHEREAS, The Seismic Safety Commission Act directs the Seismic Safety Commission to coordinate earthquake-related programs of the various state agencies and to advise the Governor and the Legislature on seismic policies to mitigate earthquake hazards in California, prepare the citizens for earthquakes, provide the necessary emergency response capabilities, prepare for recovery; and

WHEREAS, The California Earthquake Hazard Reduction Act directs the Seismic Safety Commission to prepare a long term hazard reduction program of actions and priorities needed to significantly reduce California's earthquake hazards by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, The Seismic Safety Commission recognizes the need for a consistent policy statement to help the Governor and the Legislature establish goals and priorities for the 1991 legislative session; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Seismic Safety Commission recommends the following comprehensive legislative program to the Governor and Legislature to provide high priority measures consistent with the objectives of the California Earthquake Hazard Reduction Act and to reduce statewide earthquake hazards significantly by the Year 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Seismic Safety Commission will sponsor the following bills:

- **Residential Strengthening**

Require bracing cripple walls and installing anchor bolts, chimney restraints, and water heater bracing at the time of resale of older residential structures.

- **Hazardous High-Occupancy Buildings**

Establish the Hazardous High-Occupancy Buildings Program to identify, analyze, and retrofit nonductile concrete buildings.

- **Hazardous Building Wall Anchorage Law**

Establish a program to inventory and mitigate hazardous concrete tilt-up and masonry buildings with weak roof and wall ties built prior to the adoption of the 1976 Uniform Building Code by the year 2000.

- **State URM Buildings**

Establish a state policy to remove or relocate State of California, University of California, and California State University operations from owned or leased hazardous URM buildings or facilities by January 1, 2000.

- **Minimum Retrofit Standards for Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs)**

Establish a minimum seismic retrofit standard for URMs.

- **Add Seismic Zone 3 to the URM Law**

Extend the Unreinforced Masonry Building Law to the area covered by seismic zone 3 by encouraging but not requiring strengthening buildings.

- **Commercial Loan Loss Guarantee Program**

Extend the existing Residential Loan Loss Guarantee Program for Unreinforced Masonry Buildings to commercial structures.

- **Nonstructural Hazards in the Work Place**

Require the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to adopt safety standards to mitigate nonstructural earthquake hazards in the work place.

- **Property Tax Exemption for Seismic Rehabilitation**

Amend Section 74.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code to exempt seismic rehabilitation of hazardous buildings from the definition of new construction.

- **Independent Review of Special Occupancy Structures**

Amend the Building Standards Law to require independent review of Special Occupancy structures.

- **Funding Source for Seismic Programs**

Establish funding sources for various state and local government seismic safety programs. Funding would provide for governmental needs (such as the seismic retrofit of state and local government buildings, removal of nonstructural hazards in the work place, hazard reduction planning, emergency response and recovery planning, and training programs), research, and financial incentives to encourage seismic retrofit of private buildings (such as low interest loans and tax deferment programs).

- **Proposition 122 Research Grants**

Appropriate \$2,860,000 to the Seismic Safety Commission from Proposition 122 to fund research proposals submitted to the Seismic Safety Commission that address the retrofit of state-owned buildings.

- **Seismic Hazard Mapping, Technical Amendments**

Make technical amendments to AB 3897, Chapter 1168, Statutes of 1990 to remove the exemptions of certain cities, clarify the use of fees, add tsunamis and seiches to seismic hazard maps, and define the term "Board"

- **Public Information, Real Estate Purchasers' Guidebook**

Make minor technical amendments to AB 2959, Chapter 1499, Statutes of 1990.

- **Earthquake Month**

Declare April 1991 as Earthquake Awareness Month.

- **Demolition Review Process Following a Disaster**

Make technical amendments to statutes regarding the demolition or repair of damaged historical buildings following a natural disaster; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Seismic Safety Commission supports in principle the development of the following legislation:

- **Continuing Education of Building Inspectors**

Require the continuing education and the certification of building inspectors.

- **Essential Services Buildings**

Add National Guard Armories to the list of essential services buildings.

- **Uniform Damage Repair Standards**

Require an administrative code for the development and adoption of uniform damage repair standards for use by local building officials.

- **CCC Residential Strengthening Program**

Allow the California Conservation Corps to perform residential hazard mitigation projects for residential structures.

- **Seismic Evaluation of Structures**

Amend building code statutes to direct that a state building code shall require the seismic evaluation of existing buildings when there is a significant alteration, addition, damage, or upon sale.

- **Closure of Hazardous School Structures**

Give the Office of the State Architect the authority to close hazardous public school buildings.

- **Study of Disaster Medical Care Needs in the 21st Century**

Implement the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHDP) study authorized under Chapter 34x, Statutes of 1990.

- **Confidential Information for Hospital Buildings**

Provide for the retention of confidential information acquired by OSHDP.

- **Nonstructural Hazards in the Classroom**

Require OSA and the Department of Education to adopt safety standards for nonstructural earthquake hazards in schools.

- **Study of Early Field Act Schools**

Codify the ongoing study from the Office of the State Architect of early Field Act schools. The first year funding has been provided. This may be a Budget Act item for the 1991-1992 fiscal year.

- **Redefine the Term "Act of God"**

Amend the Public Contract Code and other statutes to redefine the term "Act of God."

- **Public Information: Seismic Safety**

Establish a task force of state agencies and private nonprofit organizations to determine the goals and objectives of state-sponsored and-encouraged public information programs, and prepare a strategy to meet the objectives, decide on areas of responsibility and expertise, and create a procedure for reviewing, developing consensus, and approving public information documents.

- **Emergency Disaster Aid Workers**

Allow state employees to serve as disaster aid workers with FEMA, the Red Cross, SBA, or other groups after natural disasters, and encourage training volunteers before the event.

- **General Plan, Seismic Element**

Make technical changes to the Planning and Zoning Law, Title 7 of the Government Code, requiring the seismic element in the general plan to include liquefaction, landslides, tsunamis, seiches, dam inundation map information, and the intensity of ground shaking that may be caused by earthquakes. This bill would not require new mapping but would require the addition of new information to be developed by the Seismic Hazard Mapping bill.

- **Continuing Education Class on Seismic Safety for Real Estate Agents and Brokers**

Require the California Community Colleges, in cooperation with the Department of Real Estate and the Seismic Safety Commission, to develop and provide continuing educational classes on seismic safety that can be used toward real estate agent license requirements.

- **Disaster Aid Programs**

Establish a task force to review California and federal disaster aid laws, evaluate their effectiveness, and make recommendations for improvements to both. A representative of the Seismic Safety Commission should be included.

- **Model Recovery Plan**

Appropriate \$150,000 to the Seismic Safety Commission for the development of a model plan to provide for the orderly transition from emergency disaster response to resumption of normal governmental services and private business activity, and for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

- **Disaster Reporting Requirements: SBE**

Require the State Board of Equalization (SBE) to collect information on the number and type of claims filed in accordance with Section 170 of the Revenue and Taxation Code following a natural disaster. In addition, SBE should provide information on the possible sales tax revenue loss that may result from a disaster.

- **Disaster Reporting Requirements: FTB**

Require the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to identify the number and amount of losses claimed on itemized personal income taxes as a result of a natural disaster. This measure would help the state identify revenue shortfalls resulting from a natural disaster.

- **Constitutional Amendment to 1974 Bond Law**

Make technical amendments to the "State School Building Aid and Earthquake Reconstruction and Replacement Bond Law of 1974" by modifying the local matching fund requirement and make the funds available for the mitigation of nonstructural hazards.

- **A California Research Program**

Establish a California Research Program and to provide funding for needed seismic safety research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Seismic Safety Commission, as a result of the Commission's review of the responses to the Governor's Executive Order D-86-90, recommends to the Legislature and the Governor the following legislative measures:

- **Budgeting Process**

Allow the use of alternative capital outlay procedures such as the program-based budgeting procedures, the Federal government's two-phase approval process or a modification of the existing capital outlay process to expedite seismic safety projects.

- **Seismic Safety Priority**

Make seismic safety a priority consideration for capital outlay bonds and project funding.

- **Plan Checking and Inspection**

Give OSA plan checking and construction inspection authority over all state-owned buildings.

- **Ballot Measure to Fund Seismic Safety Retrofits**

Place a general obligation bond measure on the 1992 statewide ballot to authorize revenue bonds for the seismic retrofit of state-owned buildings.

- **Mitigate or Vacate**

Require that all hazardous state buildings, including those on university campuses, be identified and mitigated or vacated by January 1, 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the members of the California Legislature for consideration in the 1991-1992 Legislative Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the Governor for his consideration and support.

The foregoing resolution is adopted by the Seismic Safety Commission on November 8, 1990.


Barbara Cram Riordan, Chairman


William Waste, Vice-Chairman