

PROPOSED OUTLINE - USSC MEETING WITH GOVERNOR LEAVITT

Purpose: Governor, we're the USSC, and we're here to ask for your support in reducing earthquake risks and losses in Utah!

I. Define hazard

1. 80% of Utah's population lives near the Wasatch fault in Utah's most active earthquake zone (show ^{epicenter} Goter seismicity/fault map).
2. An earthquake the size of Northridge, Kobe, or larger will occur along the Wasatch Front; we just don't know when. New data indicate earthquakes every 1350 years on SLC segment WFZ, with the last one about 1300 years ago.
3. Utah is not California or Alaska, but is one of the second-most hazardous areas in the U.S. Risk is great here because of many old buildings, few recent Wasatch Front earthquakes to maintain awareness and preparedness, and isolation (few nearby metro areas to provide resources for response).
4. Estimates of losses for a M 7.5 in SLC are 7,600 dead and over \$12 billion in damages, with lasting economic effects.
5. The USSC recognizes this, and wants to help Utah prepare.

II. USSC

1. Formed by 1994 Utah Legislature to make recommendations to reduce losses.
2. Members include private professionals and government officials, with citizen advisory committees, who want to make a difference.
3. We have completed a "Strategic Plan" which outlines necessary actions; now we must implement them (give him a copy of the plan).
4. We need help and support from the state to do this.

III. Present priority actions and request support

1. Governor is uniquely positioned to take a long-term view and articulate to citizens and state agencies that the problem is serious and requires responsible action. We want to be able to say that "Utah should prepare for earthquakes, and the state is willing to help."
2. USSC is committed to responsible spending for maximum benefit.
3. For actions requiring funding, legislative sponsors usually ask: "Is this in the Governor's budget?" Success is improved if measures requiring funds are included in the Governor's budget.
4. We are here today to ask the Governor to seriously consider USSC budget recommendations in his budgeting process.
5. The state can set an example and take the lead on many actions.
6. Recommended actions for FY 1996 are:
 - a. Strategy 1.1 Inform citizens...(define need, cost).
 - b. Strategy 4.8 Strong-motion...(define need, cost)
 - ~~c. Permanent staff? Other strategies?~~

IV. Summary and additional comments by Senator Peterson and Representative Knudson.