



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



ALFRED E. ALQUIST
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
In-person and Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Garnes called the meeting to order at approximately 10:11 a.m. A roll call was conducted to establish a quorum.

Commissioners In-Person Attendance

Debra Garnes, Chair, Local Government

Ida Clair, State Architect

Representative Lori Nezhura for Caroline Thomas Jacobs, CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Cindy Silva, Local Government

Commissioners Virtual Attendance

Assembly member Gail Pellerin, CA State Assembly

Stoyan Bumbalov, Building Standards Commission

Vincent Wells, Fire Protection

Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto, Structural Engineer

Commissioners Absent

David Rabbitt, Vice Chair, Local Government

Kevin McGowan, Emergency Services

Joone Kim-Lopez, Public Utility

2. Chair Remarks

Chair Garnes noted this was the first meeting under her leadership and thanked commissioners for their support. Chair Garnes introduced presenters providing seismic updates.

Dr. Lucy Jones – Brawley Seismic Zone (Imperial County):

Dr. Jones provided an overview of recent seismic activity in the Brawley Seismic Zone, Redwood Valley, and Venezuela. Key observations were summarized, and Dr. Jones noted that the events were not related.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Commissioner Kit Miyamoto – Venezuela Earthquake Sequence:

Commissioner Miyamoto reported on conditions in the affected region of Venezuela. The update included concentrated damage in coastal areas, significant impacts to mid-rise buildings, and ongoing challenges related to structural assessments and debris management. Commissioner Miyamoto described continuing work by engineering teams and noted resource limitations affecting demolition and recovery operations.

Dr. Zoe Yen – USGS Global Monitoring Perspective

Dr. Yen summarized USGS observations of the Venezuela earthquake sequence, including rupture behavior, early warning performance, and preliminary impact estimates. Dr. Yen also noted ongoing efforts to rehabilitate seismic monitoring stations in the region.

3. Approval of Seismic Safety Commission (SSC) April 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Silva moved to approve the SSC April 9, 2026, minutes; Commissioner Clair seconded. The motion passed by roll-call vote.

4. Ad-Hoc Committee Discussion for Current Research Projects

-Dr. Sara K. McBride, Ph.D., Executive Director, SSC

Staff reported recommended updates to commissioner assignments based on project status. The Commission approved removing the Ad Hoc Committee for Improving Post-Earthquake Ignitions and updating membership for the Ferndale–Türkiye Doublet Project. The recommendations were approved by roll-call vote.

Chair Garnes announced an agenda adjustment to move Items 5 and 6 to the October 8 meeting.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



5. Concept for a Nonductile Concrete Building Shake Table Project

- Prof. Tara Hutchinson, P.E., Professor, UC San Diego

Professor Hutchinson presented a concept for a shake table project to test nonductile concrete buildings. The presentation outlined known deficiencies in this building type, potential retrofit strategies, and a proposed multi-year testing program. Professor Hutchinson noted that Phase 1 would require approximately \$100,000 in seed funding. Commissioners asked questions regarding public awareness and project costs.

6. Break

Chair Garnes called a five-minute break at 11:40 a.m.

Following the break, Chair Garnes announced that, due to time constraints, items 5 and 6, the CRAF Fund and Five-Year Work Plan, will be moved to the October 8th meeting agenda.

7. ShakeOut 2.0

- Dr. Lucy Jones, Founder and Chief Scientist at the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society

Dr. Jones provided an overview of the ShakeOut 2.0 initiative, including updates reflecting changes in work patterns, demographics, mitigation progress, and new data. Dr. Jones presented the project timeline and addressed questions regarding outreach and health-related impacts for emergency responders.

8. Tall Building and Urban Seismic Risk

- William P. Graf, C.E., Vice President, Engineering, ImageCat Inc.

Mr. Graf presented on tall-building collapse modes and potential "contagious collapse" scenarios in dense urban areas. The presentation highlighted limitations in current models and the need to account for external impacts to neighboring structures. Commissioners asked questions regarding building height thresholds and historical data.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



9. Project Updates

- Dr. Sara K. McBride, Executive Director, SSC

Executive Director Dr. Sara K. McBride updated Commissioners on the status of the following projects:

- **Ferndale and Türkiye**— Jia Wang-Connelly, Senior Structural Engineer, provided an update on the Ferndale and Türkiye doublet project. Staff reported that Volume 1 has been completed and Volume 2 is progressing into higher-fidelity analysis.
- **UC San Diego Shake Table Project**— Staff noted that the UAV Guide is undergoing final review and is anticipated for presentation at the October meeting..
- **Mobile Home Building Code Project**— Staff reported that the Applied Technology Council has begun initial work and the first project meeting is being scheduled.
- **SSC Website & Design Contract**— Staff recognized Tanya Black for completing the SSC website redesign on time and within budget. Commissioners were encouraged to review the updated site.
- **Reducing Post-Earthquake Ignitions and Improving Firefighting Water Supply Capacity Reliability**— Staff reported that contract considerations are being resolved, and work is expected to begin by the October meeting.
- **Building Health Monitoring Using California's MyShake Smartphone App**— Jia Wang-Connelly, Senior Structural Engineer, provided an update on the Building Health Monitoring Using California Smartphone Apps project. Staff reported that the final report has been received and will be presented following review committee discussions.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



10. **Miscellaneous Announcements**

Assembly Bill 2471

Dr. McBride summarized proposed changes to SSC membership and reporting requirements. The bill remains on file and is scheduled for consideration when the legislature reconvenes.

Senate Bill 895

Dr. McBride provided an overview of SB 895, noting that current language does not include seismic research. Staff is coordinating with Legislative Affairs to request amendments. The bill remains in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Retirement Recognition

The Commission recognized Representative Christina Curry for her decades of service and contributions to seismic safety.

.

11. **Public Comments: Items Not on the Agenda**

Chair Garnes read a letter from Monica Kohler (Caltech) and Ertugrul Taciroglu (UCLA) regarding funding challenges for the Community Seismic Network. The letter emphasized CSN's value for school safety and requested SSC assistance in exploring funding options.

12. **Adjourn**

Chair Garnes adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Tanya Black, Administrative Processes Manager