

Model Executive Order

Executive Order

No. _____

Establishing _____ Seismic Safety Advisory Board

WHEREAS, many different agencies at various levels of government have substantial responsibilities in the fields of earthquake emergency response and recovery planning and seismic safety; and

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to provide a consistent policy framework and a means for coordinating on a continuing basis the earthquake-related programs of agencies at all governmental levels and their relationships with elements of the private sector involved in practices important to seismic safety; and

WHEREAS, this need is not being addressed by any continuing state government organization; and

WHEREAS, through concerted efforts of broad scope, coordinated by a Seismic Safety Advisory Board, long-term progress should be made toward higher levels of seismic safety; and

WHEREAS, earthquakes have caused and can cause in the future enormous loss of life, injury, destruction of property, and economic and social disruption, and with respect to future earthquakes, that loss, injury, destruction, and disruption can be reduced substantially by developing and implementing earthquake hazards reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, while the major responsibility for dealing with

earthquakes before and after they happen is firmly fixed with local government, state government also has fundamental responsibilities to take all reasonable measures to reduce the seismic hazard to which the citizens of _____ are exposed; and

WHEREAS, the state should assume a leadership role by influencing the direction of existing and future national earthquake hazard reduction programs and should serve as a model for local hazard reduction measures; and

WHEREAS, earthquake hazard reduction measures often benefit many state programs and bring about improvements in buildings, dams, transportation facilities, communications, fire safety, toxic materials handling, and emergency response preparations;

NOW THEREFORE, I, [NAME], Governor of the State of _____, by virtue of the powers and authority vested in me by the statutes and Constitution of the State of _____, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

- I. Establishment of a _____ Seismic Safety Advisory Board to provide policy, guidance, and direction for the implementation of a comprehensive earthquake risk reduction and management program consistent with state organization responsibilities.

- a. There is established a _____ Seismic Safety Advisory Board, herein referred to as the "board"
- b. The purpose of the Board is to coordinate, inform, advise and make recommendations.
- c. The advisory Board shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor. The Seismic Safety Advisory Board shall elect annually from its membership its own chairman and vice chairman and may replace them with other advisory board members by majority vote.
- d. Advisory Board members shall be residents of the State of [name].
- e. The membership of the Seismic Safety Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Governor from lists of nominees submitted by professional organizations and associations as listed below:
 - (1) Four members appointed from established organizations in the fields of architecture and planning, fire protection, public utilities, and electrical engineering and mechanical engineering;
 - (2) Four members appointed from established organizations in the fields of structural engineering, geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, and seismology;
 - (3) Four members appointed from nominees submitted by the League of Cities and the County Supervisors Association;
 - (4) Three members appointed from established organizations in the fields of insurance, social service, and emergency services;

- II. Duties and responsibilities of the _____ Seismic Safety Advisory Board.
 - a. The Board, in the discharge of its responsibilities, may do any of the following:
 - (1) Accept grants, contributions, and appropriations from public agencies, private foundations, or individuals.
 - (2) Appoint committees from its membership, appoint advisory committees from interested public and private groups, and appoint *ex officio* members who shall not be entitled to vote, to advise the Board.
 - (3) Contract for or employ any professional services and research required by the Board or required for the performance of necessary work and services which, in the Board's opinion, cannot satisfactorily be performed by its officers and employees or by other federal, state, or local governmental agencies.
 - b. The Board is responsible for all of the following in connection with earthquake risk management:
 - (1) Setting goals and priorities in the public- and private-sectors.
 - (2) Requesting appropriate state agencies to devise criteria to promote earthquake and disaster safety.
 - (3) Recommending program changes to state agencies, local agencies, and the private sector where such changes would improve earthquake hazards and reduction.
 - (4) Reviewing emergency response, recovery and reconstruction efforts after damaging earthquakes.

- (5) Gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information.
 - (6) Encouraging research.
 - (7) Helping to coordinate the earthquake safety activities of government at all levels.
 - (8) Establishing and maintaining necessary working relationships with any boards, advisory boards, departments, and agencies, or other public or private organizations.
- c. To implement the foregoing responsibilities, the Board may do any of the following:
- (1) Review state budgets and review grant proposals, other than those grant proposals submitted by institutions of post secondary education to the federal government, for earthquake related activities and to advise the Governor and Legislature thereon.
 - (2) Review legislative proposals, related to earthquake safety to advise the Governor and Legislature concerning the proposals, and to propose needed legislation.
 - (3) Recommend the addition, deletion, or changing of state agency standards when, in the Board's view, the existing situation creates undue hazards or when new developments would promote earthquake hazard mitigation, and conduct public hearings as deemed necessary on the subjects.
 - (4) Recommend and sponsor legislation creating a state-level Seismic Safety Advisory Board as a permanent and autonomous entity of state government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of _____ to be affixed this ____ day of _____, 19 __

Governor of the State of

Attest: _____
Secretary of State