

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
State Allocation Board Meeting, October 29, 2008

SEISMIC MITIGATION PROGRAM UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present a report on the current status of the Seismic Mitigation Program.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill (AB) 300, Statutes of 2000, Chapter 622 required the Department of General Services to conduct an inventory to identify school buildings potentially vulnerable to a seismic event.

Proposition 1D approved by the voters in November 2006 authorized up to \$199.5 million for seismic mitigation of school facilities that are the most vulnerable Category 2 buildings that pose an unacceptable risk of injury during a seismic event. The seismic regulations define the "Most Vulnerable Category 2 Buildings" and were approved by the Board on September 26, 2007 for filing with the Office of Administrative Law. The seismic regulations became effective April 30, 2008, and the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) sent a letter on May 5, 2008 to all school districts notifying them of the regulation adoption and the ability to apply for Seismic Mitigation Program funding.

In September, the Division of the State Architect (DSA) issued three letters to school districts on the Seismic Mitigation Program. The first letter was sent to school districts with facilities on the AB 300 list. The letter identified the facilities and requested updated information on the status of potentially high risk buildings. The second and third letters went to all school districts and county offices of education reminding them of the availability of seismic repair or replacement funding and seeking information on potentially vulnerable facilities. Districts have been asked to respond with information by November 14, 2008. The DSA will revise the AB 300 list with this information.

In accordance with the Seismic Mitigation Program criteria, the DSA initially identified 77 buildings located in 17 school districts that could be eligible for funding. After outreach to the affected districts, it has been found that 23 of the 77 facilities remain potentially eligible for seismic funding. Of the 23 facilities, districts plan to submit funding applications for eight facilities and are considering applying for 10 of the facilities. The affected districts for the remaining five facilities are not currently planning to apply for funds.

The Field Act required facilities built prior to 1933 to be inspected and retrofitted or taken out of service in the 1970's. These retrofitted facilities were excluded from the AB 300 list. The retrofit on pre-1933 unreinforced masonry buildings may leave these facilities potentially vulnerable to a seismic event. Consequently, another 83 districts have been notified that they may have facilities that qualify for seismic repair or replacement funding under the program's current eligibility criteria.

AUTHORITY

EC Section 17075.10(a) states, "A school district may apply for hardship assistance in cases of extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the need to repair, reconstruct, or replace the most vulnerable school facilities that are a Category 2 building, as defined in the report submitted pursuant to Section 17317, determined by the department to pose an unacceptable risk of injury to its occupants in the event of a seismic event."

STAFF COMMENTS

The DSA and OPSC are continuing outreach for the Seismic Mitigation Program. Preliminary information indicates that there are many facilities that could qualify for funding under the current program criteria. As information is reported from districts, estimates of the number of eligible facilities can be refined. These refined estimates will be shared with the Board as they become available.

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RECOMMENDATION

Accept this report.

BOARD ACTION

This item was postponed to the December 2008 SAB meeting.

SPECIALS

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