

## Western States Seismic Policy Council 2014 Awards in Excellence

### *Award in Excellence for Non-Profit Agency Efforts*

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<b>Administering Agency:</b>	International Code Council Evaluation Service (ICC-ES)
<b>Program/Project Name:</b>	ICC-ES Evaluation Reports Program
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#### **Program Summary**

The International Code Service Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) Evaluation Reports Program is a valuable tool for those involved in the development process to find safe and effective seismic materials and designs to help assure the safety of the inhabitants of modern buildings and the continuity of our communities. The service permits for the ongoing evolution of products and designs outside the traditional and time-consuming inclusion within the body of the building code, and provides regulators with an internationally accepted method to verify submittal compliance with the intent of the code. The resulting Evaluation Reports (ER) are accepted in virtually every jurisdiction in the United States including local, state, and federal governments.

New materials, products and methods of design are constantly being developed, and are often outside the scope of many design professionals, who have neither the time nor the expertise to fully evaluate new concepts for compliance with the intent of the code. The traditional and conservative approach is to deny new methods, designs or materials that are not described prescriptively within the body of the code. Although perceived as being the safe option, the reality is that by failing to keep up with the state-of-the-art of technology, buildings would be less safe and some structures could never be developed. This program establishes a process that allows design methods and materials to be evaluated on a critical and independent basis by teams of private and public engineers, who develop acceptance criteria (AC) for innovative products not specifically covered by the codes. The AC are debated in public, refined, and then established as the protocol for the evaluation of similar products and processes. Engineers who make use of ER are assured that innovative products, materials or designs have met applicable requirements; code officials can be assured their communities are protected at the highest possible level.

Maintaining a committee of volunteer experts can be challenging for any organization, but because of the strength of the ICC membership, ICC-ES manages to attract a variety of experts in the built environment on regular basis in order to assure the approved AC remain at the highest quality.

More information can be found at: [www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org)