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Recommendations for Improving California's Policy Framework for Tsunamis released in *California's Tsunami Risk: A Call for Action Report*

Sacramento - *California's Tsunami Risk: A Call for Action*, a report three years in the making, was released today by an ad hoc California Tsunami Policy Working Group formed to review California's tsunami hazard and provide actionable recommendations to reduce the risk from local and distant tsunamis. The report is available from <http://www.wsspc.org/>.

The Working Group, composed of experts in earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, structural and coastal engineering, urban planning and natural hazard policy from government, academia, the private sector, and non-profit natural hazards risk reduction organizations, considered lessons learned from recent tsunamis and applied research and best practices to identify and prioritize what policy improvements are needed in California for tsunami hazard analysis and risk management, strengthening land use and construction policies in tsunami-prone areas, and enhancing emergency management practices.

Key among the report's 47 recommendations addressed to the State of California are:

- Support continuation of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, TsunamiReady® and affiliated state and local programs, and recruit and assist all coastal communities, ports and harbors to become TsunamiReady®.
- Establish State-delineated tsunami hazard zones appropriate for application through the Seismic Hazard Mapping Act, with guidance for tsunami resilient land use planning and building codes;
- Promote a suite of improvements to tsunami hazard warning messaging and communication;
- Develop products to improve maritime and harbor hazard assessments, preparedness and planning.

"Crescent City has historically been hit by both local and distant tsunamis," said Jim Barnts, Former Director, Crescent City Public Works and a Working Group participant. "With these policy recommendations in place, based upon solid science and risk-based land use and construction practices, Crescent City will have a firm foundation upon which to make decisions to protect property and save lives."

"People don't often think about large tsunamis here in southern California", said Mary Beth Broeren, Planning Manager for Huntington Beach, "but recent hazards research from the U.S. Geological Survey and the State of California indicate we have a tsunami risk that would have significant economic consequences and also potential human consequences if not managed properly. These policy recommendations, if adopted, give us a statewide framework to address the tsunami risk we have."

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