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Contact: Patti Sutch, Executive Director, Western States Seismic Policy Council
916-444-6816

WSSPC Board of Directors Names 2015 Awards in Excellence Winners; Former California State Senator Alex Padilla Wins Overall Award in Excellence for Earthquake Early Warning Legislation

Sacramento - The Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Awards in Excellence. The Overall Award in Excellence in the category of Legislation was awarded to former California State Senator Alex Padilla (now California Secretary of State) for sponsoring Senate Bill No. 135, Earthquake Early Warning System. The law requires California Office of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the California Seismic Safety Commission, California Institute of Technology, California Geological Survey, University of California at Berkeley, the U.S. Geological Survey, and other stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system that would disseminate earthquake information in support of public safety, emergency response, and loss mitigation.

Also selected for a 2015 Award in Excellence in other categories were the following:

Educational Outreach: presented to Prepare Del Norte for their “Earthquake and Tsunami Safe Week”, a program of the County of Del Norte Emergency Services. They provided emergency response drills and exercises throughout the county noteworthy for engaging the entire community, created innovative educational activities, and developed a website (www.PrepareDelNorte.com) that supports emergency preparedness and response to large earthquakes, tsunamis, and other disasters.

Multi-jurisdictional Planning: presented to the Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for the Alaska Shield 2014 Earthquake Exercise. The exercise was a full-scale, live test of the ability of State and Federal agencies, local government, and non-governmental entities to respond to a devastating earthquake, modeled after the M9.2 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake.

The Awards will be presented at the 2015 Western States Seismic Policy Council Annual Meeting held at The Hilton Pasadena in Pasadena, California, on April 24, 2015. Summaries of the 2015 winning programs and projects are posted on the Western States Seismic Policy Council’s website at www.wsspc.org. The WSSPC Awards in Excellence program was started in 1996 to recognize achievement in different areas of earthquake mitigation, preparedness and response.

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