



Monthly Bulletin September 2020

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Western States Seismic Policy Council

801 K Street, Suite 1236
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Phone: 916-444-6816
Fax: 916-444-8077

WSSPC News

- WSSPC is continuing the process of closing out the downtown Sacramento physical office space while simultaneously building out remote capacities. The expectation is the transition will be complete by the end of this month. While it is a difficult action to take, this transition will strengthen the overall resilience of our organization while simultaneously saving money. The value of this resilience has already been demonstrated during our current COVID conditions. As always, we remain committed to bringing a high level of value, support, and service to membership. WSSPC will continue to implement its policy mission, support regional cooperation and interaction, and work to reduce earthquake related losses.
- Committees have met or are scheduling meetings for the 2021 policy review process. Edited documents have started coming into WSSPC in anticipation of the Fall WSSPC Board meeting where they will be reviewed. They will then be returned to the committees for a second review prior to the Spring Board meeting.
- September is **National Preparedness Month**. More information on that in the “News of Interest” section of this bulletin.

REMINDER:

WSSPC hosts three regularly scheduled monthly calls:

- Member State Geologists and Seismic Commissions & Councils—typically held on the second Tuesday of each month
- The WSSPC Clearinghouse Work Group—typically held on the third Wednesday of each month
- Member Earthquake Program Managers—typically held on the third Thursday of each month

These monthly calls support regular communication and work to advance the shared goals of WSSPC members. If you are not currently participating in at least one of these calls, we encourage you to do so! For more information, contact Matthew Wall at mwall@wsspc.org.



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News of interest:

- During the current COVID crisis, human outside activity has dramatically decreased. And in this quiet, scientists have been able to listen to and search for signals which are typically drowned out by background noise. From the article [The Seismic Hush of the Coronavirus](#) published in Eos on 23 July 2020, “Globally, seismic noise dropped by a median average of 50% during the coronavirus lockdowns from March through May. The measurement includes all seismic signals, but scientists attribute the drop to human activity by comparing changes in seismic noise with mobility data from Google and Apple.” The article links to the study [Global quieting of high-frequency seismic noise due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures](#) published at Sciencemag.org.
- In 2018, the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation released its [Global Earthquake Maps](#). In the most recent issue of *Earthquake Spectra SAGE Journals*, the paper [The 2018 version of the Global Earthquake Model: Hazard component](#) was published to “discuss the general qualities of these models, the underlying framework of the database, and the outlook for the Mosaic’s utility and its future versions.”
- On 10 August 2020, the State of Oregon’s **ShakeAlert Earthquake Warning System** was approved for \$7.5 million in state funding. Targeted use of the state funding is to increase the number of seismic sensors, mainly at coastal stations in southern and central parts of the state. For more story information see: <https://www.klcc.org/post/oregons-shakealert-earthquake-warning-system-approved-state-funding> . For more information on Oregon’s system, see: <https://ohaz.uoregon.edu/shakealert/>
- On 10 August 2020 a M4.6 earthquake, the largest earthquake in the Salton Sea Swarm (California) occurred near Bombay Beach. For USGS reporting of the event with daily predictions see: <https://www.usgs.gov/center-news/salton-sea-earthquake-activity-returns-normal-levels>

You can Provide Input for our Resources Webpage and Social Media Page!

We are continuously updating our resources and reports page on our website! We are looking for input on what you would like to see in our resources page and any specific articles, studies, or projects you would like referenced there.

We have also been expanding our social media. To give more attention to earthquake safety. If you any content you would like to see us start posting, please reach out to WSSPC with your ideas!

If you have any thoughts, either on the concept for the page or possible content, please email our Executive Director Matthew Wall at mwall@wsspc.org



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News of interest (cont.):

- September is **National Preparedness Month (NPM)**. Per FEMA, “National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.” This year’s NPM theme is, “Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.” To help support partners, FEMA publishes a list of and links to resources to include Weekly Themes, Social Media and Graphics, Videos, etc. More information on NPM and resources can be found at: <https://www.ready.gov/september>
- A research paper published in *Nature Geoscience* titled [*Back-propagating supershear rupture in the 2016 Mw 7.1 Romanche transform fault earthquake*](#) documents the phenomena sometimes referred to as a “boomerang earthquake.” where the fracture moves away from the initial crack and then returns back towards the crack at even faster speeds. Successful tracking and modeling of these events allows for better understanding and potential prediction of possible risks and impacts.
- Reminder—FEMA has published the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for the FY20 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) grant program. Per the description, “he Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, Indian tribal governments, and local communities for pre-disaster mitigation activities. The guiding principles of the program are to: (1) support state and local governments, tribes, and territories through capability- and capacity-building to enable them to identify mitigation actions and implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards; (2) encourage and enable innovation while allowing flexibility, consistency, and effectiveness; (3) promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities; (4) provide a significant opportunity to reduce future losses and minimize impacts on the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF); and (5) support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that will protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public, take into account future conditions and have long-lasting impacts on community risk-reduction, including for critical services and facilities and for future disaster costs.



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Upcoming Workshops and Events

(Note—WSSPC will continue to post updated information impacting scheduled or cancelled meetings, workshops, or events when we receive it.)

**National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) 2020 Annual Forum
Virtual Summit**

September 22-25, 2020

<https://www.nemaweb.org/index.php/forums-meetings/save-the-date>

Registration opens August 24, 2020

**The Geological Society of America “GSA 2020 Connects Online Meeting”
Virtual Meeting**

October 26-30, 2020

<https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2020/home>

Registration is open now

**San Fernando Earthquake Conference – 50 Years of Lifeline Engineering
Understanding, Improving, & Operationalizing Hazard Resilience for Lifelines**
University of California, Los Angeles, California USA

February 7-10, 2021

<https://samueli.ucla.edu/lifelines2021/>

If you have an event or workshop you would like to see posted on in the WSSPC bulletins, please email us at wsspc@wsspc.org

**For more information on upcoming NEHRP related events, please visit:
https://www.nehrp.gov/pdf/NEHRP_related_Events.pdf**

WSSPC would like to thank the following entities for continuing their Affiliate Membership status for 2020. Your support is tremendously appreciated!

- [California Earthquake Authority](#)
- [The City of Las Vegas, Department of Building and Safety](#)
- [Clark County, NV Department of Building and Fire Prevention](#)
- [Applied Technology Council](#)

Remember, you and/or your organization can be an Affiliate Member!

Information on how to join can be found at: <https://www.wsspc.org/members/affiliate-members/>