



Monthly Bulletin December 2020

WSSPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Western States
Seismic Policy Council
PO Box 1360
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Phone: 916-444-6816
wsspc@wsspc.org

WSSPC News

- The WSSPC Board met on 13 November 2020. The Board reviewed the edited policies as received from the committees and voted to send them back for their second review. The Board determined that the Spring Board and Annual Business Meeting will be virtual in anticipation of on-going COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- WSSPC Board member Steve Masterman (AK) has decided to step down. **We thank him for his years of service!** Accordingly, starting on 1/1/2021, WSSPC will be accepting nominations for a State Geologist to fill that Board position. Please send nominations to mwall@wsspc.org.
- The WSSPC Affiliate Membership campaign is in process! Information on how you or your organization can become a WSSPC Affiliate member is found at: <https://www.wsspc.org/members/affiliate-members/>. Join or renew today!
- WSSPC is continuing the process of expanding our partnerships with other earthquake consortia. Specific project examples include working with CUSEC to expand use of their Regional Information Sharing Platform (RISP) and coordinating with CREW in their earthquake insurance outreach project.

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:

- [**Smaller earthquakes 'with ambition' produce the most ground shaking.**](#)
According to a recent study published in the [*Seismological Research Letters*](#), smaller earthquakes, defined as those at approximately M5.5, are the cause of the most strong shaking within a 60 km distance from the epicenter. Where this study may provide information to be used applied outside of research is in the areas of risk analysis, planning, and the development of scenarios for training. This study is directly applicable to the recommendations WSSPC has historically provided regarding the development of Earthquake and Tsunami Planning Scenarios. This specific policy is currently undergoing review and being updated as part of WSSPC's work to insure relevance. This, and the other WSSPC policies undergoing review for 2021, can be found at: [**2021 WSSPC Draft Policy Recommendations - Western States Seismic Policy Council.**](#)
- [**Seismic guidelines underestimate impact of 'The Big One' on metro Vancouver buildings.**](#) Per the article, also published at phys.org, "...tall buildings across Metro Vancouver will experience greater shaking than currently accounted for by Canada's national seismic hazard model." The reasoning behind the statement has to do with the sedimentary basin amplification effect. [**Sedimentary basins amplify the ground shaking caused by an earthquake.**](#) When earthquake risk modeling doesn't take into consideration modifiers such as ground conditions, which affect the hazard, then the process may be flawed. The impact of a flawed process may cause the risk to be underestimated or not fully understood. This can impact emergency operations planning, building codes and enforcement, etc.

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.):

- [***Socially Equitable Earthquake Risk Strategies: Apply for a Mendenhall Fellowship Now!***](#) The [Natural Hazards Center](#) has announced a partnership with USGS “...to provide an opportunity to apply social science research to earthquake risk reduction.” The fellowship is to develop earthquake risk strategies and solutions which are focused towards social equity and communities at “disproportionate risk.” Per the announcement, the intent is to work on gap analysis, stakeholder identification, and engagement strategies.
- [***Census Bureau’s New Experimental CRE Tool Shows How Vulnerable Communities Are to Disasters, Including COVID-19.***](#) Measuring the directly connected concepts of vulnerability and resilience is both a challenge and work-in-progress. The US Census has developed an experimental measurement tool called the [Community Resilience Estimates](#) where they use eleven different risk facts from health, income, age, living conditions, etc. categories to identify households and communities at higher risk. For the tool’s purpose, they determined that having three or more risk factors defines the household at high-risk and having 30% or more of their population in this category defines a community as at high-risk. The tool combines [2018 American Community Survey](#) information with the [2018 National Center for Health Statistics National Health Interview Survey](#). Per the article, “Some of the factors that are associated with more high-risk communities include: Low income, especially in rural communities; Greater proportion of single mothers, Majority Black and Hispanic population: Greater proportion of residents 65 and older, a population at significant risk for infection and developing severe illness. The ability to better define both the people and the communities at high-risk supports the implementation of WSSPC Policy Recommendations in the areas of Risk Reduction Strategies, Hazard Identification and Assessment, and Lifelines.

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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.)

AGU Fall Meeting

Virtual Meeting
December 1-17, 2020

<https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>

Registration is open

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/>

National Earthquake Program Manager Meeting

June 15-17 in Memphis, TN
More information to be provided when available

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 also be an Affiliate Member!

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