



## Monthly Bulletin February 2021

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### Western States Seismic Policy Council

PO Box 1360  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
Phone: 916-444-6816  
Fax: 916-444-8077

## WSSPC News

- **REMINDER!!** The nomination time period for the 2021 WSSPC Awards ends on the 28 February 2021. If there is an individual or project that you wish to recommend, the nomination forms can be found at: [Call for Nominations - Western States Seismic Policy Council \(wsspc.org\)](https://www.wsspc.org/call-for-nominations) .
- **WSSPC Board of Director** Position—As has been previously published, Board of Director member Steve Masterman has decided to step down. We are incredibly grateful for his hard work in supporting WSSPC and all our member states and territories! His stepping down leaves a vacancy on our Board. Per WSSPC [By-laws](#), our Board must consist of three (3) Emergency Management Directors, three (3) State Geologists/Directors, and one (1) At-large member. Subsequently, and per the By-laws, his position must be filled by a State Geologist/Director. If you wish to be considered or if you wish to make a nomination, please send that nomination to [mwall@wsspc.org](mailto:mwall@wsspc.org). The initial time period for nominations will end on the 28 February 2021. Once nominations are received, a poll will be sent out to Voting Members with the results to be provided no more than thirty (30) days after the end of the voting period.
- **WSSPC partnerships**—In order to achieve greater success and better support our membership, WSSPC works in coordination with the Central US Earthquake Consortia (CUSEC) and the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW). Recent coordination efforts include: supporting the creation of the Consortium for Emergency Services (CEST) created as an initiative of CUSEC designed to provide tools and technology in support of the emergency management community and, working with CREW in their earthquake insurance data gathering/outreach development process.
- **New section starting in the Spring 2021 e-Newsletter**—It was suggested that WSSPC add a “Jobs List” section to the quarterly newsletters. The jobs listed would be specific in nature to emergency management, geologic research/management, and tsunami research/management. The jobs listed would also be specific to the states and territories within WSSPC. The suggestion was discussed and vetted using the online monthly meetings. It received unanimous approval from all participants in all three regularly scheduled meetings. For this to work efficiently, WSSPC requests that membership provide the jobs that they want listed. This information should be sent to [mwall@wsspc.org](mailto:mwall@wsspc.org). Thank you



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## WSSPC Monthly Calls reminder

WSSPC hosts monthly calls for three main groups:

- Member Earthquake Program Managers,
- Member State Geologists and Seismic Commissions & Councils,
- The WSSPC Clearinghouse Working Group

These monthly calls allow us to communicate more regularly and create platforms where we can share ideas. If you are eligible and 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](mailto:mwall@wsspc.org).

## News of interest:

- [WEA test planned for Feb. 25 in Pierce, King, Thurston](#). From the article, “At 11 a.m., Feb. 25, the Washington Emergency Management Division and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will jointly send a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test message across many wireless devices in King, Pierce and Thurston counties. This is a test in the run-up to our launch later this year of an Earthquake Early Warning system in Washington state. The demonstration is being done the same month as the 20th anniversary of the 6.8 Nisqually earthquake, which happened on Feb. 28, 2001. **To receive the test messages, mobile phone users must OPT IN.** Most newer Apple and Android phones have the option to receive WEA 2.0 and WEA 3.0 test messages. Don’t assume that your carrier has opted in for you. For directions on how to opt in, visit [mil.wa.gov/alerts](http://mil.wa.gov/alerts) or check with your cell phone carrier.”

## 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 also looking for input on what you would like to see with respect to any specific articles, studies, or projects. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

We have also been working on expanding our social media content and experience.

If you have inputs on what you would like to see, please email Matthew Wall at [mwall@wsspc.org](mailto:mwall@wsspc.org).



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**News of interest (cont.):**

- A research article published 15 January 2020 in the [AGU Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth](#) details the creation of a seismic tomographic model of Alaska. The article, titled [Shear Velocity Model of Alaska Via Joint Inversion of Rayleigh Wave Ellipticity, Phase Velocities, and Receiver Functions Across the Alaska Transportable Array](#), discusses the use of the [Alaska Transportable Array](#) in gathering seismic wave information from earthquakes and background noise. Once the data was collected, it was mathematically transcribed into visual models of underground Alaska. The modeling included at least nine different major basins. This specific modeling/mapping basins is critical due to the “basin effect” where the shape and nature of the basin area acts to trap and echo earthquake waves, creating the potential for increased and more severe damage in that area.
- **Related topic:** [Upcoming Virtual Tomography Sessions | Seismological Society of America \(seismosoc.org\)](#)
- [Federal Agencies Partner to Strengthen ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning Capacity Along the West Coast](#). From the article, “A lone solar panel in the middle of California’s largest national forest is powering a seismometer able to detect Earth’s vibrations, a piece of the puzzle necessary to help protect life and property by providing critical seconds of warning that an earthquake is occurring and shaking is imminent.” The article discusses the how the September 2017 Interagency Agreement between [USGS](#) and [USDA Forest Service](#) “streamlines the process to permit new stations and upgrade existing stations in national forests.” The now-in-place seismometer, plus new ones to be added, are in in direct support of and part of the network for the [ShakeAlert Early Earthquake Warning System](#). The importance of this news story is directly related to large amount of federal land in the three western states of California, Oregon, and Washington. The placement of these seismometers helps to fill the gaps in both data collection and notification.
- **Upcoming FREE tsunami evacuation webinar**, ““What's That Sound? How Residents Responded During a Tsunami Evacuation on Vancouver Island and How Similar Evacuations Might Be Improved” [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**You and/or your organization can be a WSSPC Affiliate Member!**  
Information on how to join can be found at: <https://www.wsspc.org/members/affiliate-members/>



*We develop seismic policies and share information to promote programs intended to reduce earthquake related losses.*



*A non-profit earthquake consortium for the western states*

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**News of interest (cont.):**

- [\*\*IFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Federal Agencies Need to Take Urgent Action to Manage Supply Chain Risks\*\*](#) . In December 2020, the [Government Accountability Office](#) published a public, non-sensitive version of an October 2020 report discussing information technology, supply chain management, and vulnerabilities. From the report, “As a result of these weaknesses, these agencies are at a greater risk that malicious actors could exploit vulnerabilities in the ICT supply chain causing disruption to mission operations, harm to individuals, or theft of intellectual property. For example, without establishing executive oversight of SCRM activities, agencies are limited in their ability to make risk decisions across the organization about how to most effectively secure their ICT product and service supply chains. Moreover, agencies lack the ability to understand and manage risk and reduce the likelihood that adverse events will occur without reasonable visibility and traceability into supply chains.” Successful supply chain management is critical for recovery from an event. And, while the federal agencies do not respond to every earthquake, the opportunity to learn from this review and apply the lessons may be applicable at both state and local levels. Link to the [NIST Special Publication 800-161](#) Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Federal Information Systems and Organizations as referenced in the GAO report.
- A recent publication from the National Academies Press, [\*\*The Role of Advanced Technologies in Structural Engineering for More Resilient Communities\*\*](#), *Proceedings from a Workshop* discusses the idea that resilience is more than just surviving an event. There is consideration of “...there also needs to be a focus on how a building will recover from an event, including retaining its operational ability and function.” Further, the critical “...importance of connected, autonomous and adaptive systems, performance-based design codes and standards, and structural health monitoring, before and after disasters.” Within the proceedings are also direct connections to the supply chain and information technology aspects reported on by the GAO as referenced above on this page.

**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](mailto:wsspc@wsspc.org)**

**For more information on upcoming NEHRP related events, please visit:  
[https://www.nehrp.gov/pdf/NEHRP\\_related\\_Events.pdf](https://www.nehrp.gov/pdf/NEHRP_related_Events.pdf)**

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