



Monthly Bulletin

May 2021

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**Western States
Seismic Policy Council**
PO Box 1360
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Phone: 916-444-6816

WSSPC News

- **The WSSPC Spring Board and Annual Business Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (PDT).** The agenda and online meeting information have been sent out. If WSSPC voting members cannot attend, you are encouraged to have a proxy attend in your place for both purposes of representation and voting. This meeting include voting on the 2021 Earthquake and Tsunami policies up for adoption.
- **The FY 2021 FEMA National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program Notice of Funding Opportunity has been published.** See page 3 of this bulletin for more information.
- **2021 WSSPC Award nominations have been received and provided to the Board for review.** Should the Board select any to receive an award, it will be presented virtually during the National Earthquake Program Manager meeting in June. Award winners will be notified in advance of the meeting so they accept it live, if they so choose. After the meeting, Award Plaques will be mailed out to the winners.

WSSPC Monthly Calls

WSSPC hosts monthly calls for three main groups:

- Member Earthquake Program Managers—typically held on the third Thursday of each month
- 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

These monthly calls allow us to communicate more regularly and create platforms where we can share ideas. 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.

Please remember WSSPC's VOIP/telephone and video conference resources are available to WSSPC members. We are happy to help facilitate and/or support you.



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News of interest:

- [*Why are there relatively few aftershocks for certain Cascadia earthquakes?*](#) ([phys.org](#)) From the article, "... Cascadia intraslab earthquakes produce fewer aftershocks compared to others in subduction zones around the world. In Cascadia, these aftershock rates are lower by more than half that of the [global average](#), Gomberg and Bodin concluded."

Per the article, Gomberg and Bodin suggest the reason why there are less aftershocks may be due to the higher temperature of the deeper Juan de Fuca plate. The researchers did find that "aftershock productivity decreases with depth." However, there is an apparent contradiction as the intraslab mainshocks in southern Mexico have generated significant aftershock sequences.

- [*Parametric Disaster Insurance*](#) ([naic.org](#)) . Earthquake insurance is a growing topic. This is because if a building is damaged by an earthquake, that damage is not covered unless the property owner has an Earthquake Insurance policy. However, the typical complaint about most earthquake insurance is that it is expensive and has a high deductible. Accordingly, different insurance products are being proposed. One of these products is called, "Parametric Insurance."

From the article, "The term parametric insurance describes a type of insurance contract that insures a policyholder against the occurrence of a specific event by paying a set amount based on the magnitude of the event, as opposed to the magnitude of the losses in a traditional indemnity policy." The benefits to parametric insurance is the easier confirmation of a defined event and the speed of payment. The downsides are the property could suffer damages from a lesser event and the homeowner not get paid or the payment could be dramatically less than the cost to repair the damages.

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!



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News of interest (cont.):

- On May 1, 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Earthquake Assistance grant information. The NOFOs can be found at: [Search Grants | GRANTS.GOV](https://www.fema.gov/search/grants) . **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS June 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM (EDT).**
- **The Utah Seismic Safety Commission** and its staff support state and local governments, the private sector, and the public in advance earthquake-related issues by developing, researching, and recommending seismic policies, approaches, and outreach aimed at reducing Utah's earthquake hazards and managing Utah's earthquake risk. This year the Utah State Legislature amended the Commission to allow the Director of the Utah Division of Emergency Management to appoint three Commissioners.

On January 21, 2021, the Utah Seismic Safety Commission recommended Rhett Larsen, from the Utah Board of Education, and Divya Chanrasekhar from the American Planning Association for two Commissioner openings. On April 29, 2021, the Commission discussed and unanimously endorsed Robert Grow. The Utah Director of Emergency Management, Kris Hamlet extended invitations to all three who accepted. This raised the total number of members to fifteen. The next USSC Meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2021

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

- [California Earthquake Authority](https://www.caearthquakeauthority.com/)
- [The City of Las Vegas, Department of Building and Safety](https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/departments/building-and-safety/)
- [Clark County, NV Department of Building and Fire Prevention](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/departments/building-and-fire-prevention/)
- [Applied Technology Council](https://www.appliedtechnologycouncil.com/)

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/>



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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.)

USGS Upcoming NSHMP Workshops:

- **Tuesday, May 25, 2021**—a virtual workshop on the update to the Alaska National Seismic Hazard Model (NSHM). The Alaska NSHM was last updated in 2007. Anticipated publication of the update is 2023. [USGS Workshop: 2023 Update of the Alaska NSHM \(office.com\)](https://www.usgs.gov/workshop/2023-update-of-the-alaska-nshmp)
- **June 28-30, 2021 - NSHM User-Needs Workshop**—Save the date
More information on this topic and these meetings can be found at: [NSHMP Workshops \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/workshop/nshtm)

The National Earthquake Program Manager Meeting will take place June 15-17, 2021. It will be a virtual meeting. Registration information can be found at: [Annual NEPM Meeting \(eqprogram.net\)](https://www.eqprogram.net)

The WSSPC Fall Workshop will be presented virtually on November 9-10, 2021 with the topic being Earthquake Clearinghouses. There will be two sessions each day lasting two hours each. Each session will be focused on different topics associated with Clearinghouses. The workshop will cover the basics of developing a Clearinghouse Plan, accountability considerations, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), partnerships, virtual reporting of conditions, outreach, and training development. More information will be provided at a later date.

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