



Monthly Bulletin August 2021

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Western States Seismic Policy Council

PO Box 1360
West Sacramento CA 95605
Phone: 916-444-6816
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WSSPC News

On July 7, 2021, WSSPC was informed by FEMA that we were not selected for FY 2021 FEMA/NEHRP grant funding. This is the second year in a row we have not been selected. Prior to last year, FEMA/NEHRP funding was the historical and primary source of income for all four earthquake consortia. This changed in FY 2020 when FEMA altered their NEHRP grant program. Part of the changes included a decision to only fund two multi-state partners as part of the Multi-State and National Program component of the NEHRP grant. Currently, only two of the original four consortia are funded. There is the possibility that no consortia will be funded in FY 2022.

We are currently generating funds through means which do not compromise our 501 (c)3 status. Those means include assisting states with earthquake program projects and Affiliated Memberships. We are and will remain a non-profit dedicated to supporting our mission and our partners.

That said, changing conditions require adaptation. To this end, WSSPC will be having a Board Meeting to discuss strategies and potential paths forward. As always, membership will be kept fully informed.

If you have inputs or thoughts, feel free to send them to me. I will collate them and provide them to the Board. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

REMINDER:

WSSPC hosts three regularly scheduled monthly calls:

- 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 support regular communication between 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:

- [Crustal motion and strain rates in the southern Basin and Range province](#)

From the article, “In a new paper, Broermann et al. explored deformation in a large area including Arizona, New Mexico, and southern portions of Utah and Colorado, within the southern Basin and Range and the Colorado Plateau. The authors observed crustal motion using the EarthScope Plate Boundary Observatory. The array of GPS sensors, seismometers, and other instruments monitor seismology and the tectonic plates underlying North America. The authors used the data to develop models of crustal surface velocity and strain rates in the study area. They concluded that accumulated strain in the crust is the primary driver of future continental earthquakes.” The study referred to is [Geodetic Extension Across the Southern Basin and Range and Colorado Plateau](#). The abstract discusses the use of the continuous GPS network to estimate crustal surface velocities. And, once the velocities were calculated, they broke the GPS velocity field into regions to identify block rotation and strain rates. The use of this information is to better identify where previous information may have gaps in understanding where previously identified strain may exist.

- [Android’s earthquake warning system proved effective in the Philippines yesterday](#)

On July 23, 2021, the Philippine Islands experienced an M6.7 earthquake. The USGS event page for this earthquake can be found at: [M 6.7 - 14 km WNW of Tingloy, Philippines \(usgs.gov\)](#). Per the article, “Google rolled out the Android Earthquake Alerts System to [seven more countries](#) ahead of a global launch over the next year. The Philippines is one of those places with earthquake warnings enabled...” The system activated and people received warning prior to the shaking reaching them. The Android Earthquake Alerts System was first launched in California in coordination with CalOES and USGS and using the [ShakeAlert](#) system. With the stated goal to create the “[world’s largest earthquake detection network](#)” Google plans to provide Early Earthquake Warning (EEW) where seismic detection systems are not as robust as on the west coast.

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 have 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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The Center for Insurance Policy and Research (CIPR) has published a new study designed to look at consumers’ perception of risk and the connection to insurance. Key findings from the study entitled, “[Extreme Weather and Property Insurance: Consumer Views](#)” which relate to seismic events and earthquake insurance included:

- 85% of homeowners had basic insurance. A key issue for those not having it was affordability.
- Prices are going up and its becoming increasingly difficult to get or renew policies.
- With respect to natural hazards, there is extreme confusion as to what the homeowner's insurance actually covers.
- The top perception of natural hazard property risk in the West US Census Region is earthquake (23%).

Many of the findings in this study reflect the 2020 National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) article “[Earthquake Insurance](#)” where it is stated:

- “High cost and limited coverage is the primary deterrent to purchasing earthquake insurance.”
- “...a common misconception that earthquake coverage is provided in a homeowners or business insurance policy.”

Earthquake insurance can be a key mitigation action an individual can take. The articles once again show us how tough the sale of this idea will be.

**WSSPC would like to thank the following for being 2021 Affiliate Members.
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](#)
- [Colorado Geologic Survey](#)
- [Applied Technology Council](#)
- [Optimum Seismic](#)

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

BRIC Webinar Series

August 11, 2021

Notice of Funding Opportunity for 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants

[Connect Event Catalog \(connectsolutions.com\)](https://connectsolutions.com)

2021 International Code Council Annual Conference & Public Comment Hearings

September 19-26, 2021

Pittsburgh, PA

Registration is Open [2021 Conference – Register - ICC \(iccsafe.org\)](https://iccsafe.org)

ASCE 2021 Convention

October 6-8, 2021

Virtual

Registration is Open [Registration | ASCE Convention](https://www.asce.org/convention)

NEMA 2021 Annual Forum

October 12-15, 2021

Cleveland, OH

Registration Opens August 23, 2021 [Save The Date \(nemaweb.org\)](https://nemaweb.org)

2021 National Disaster Resilience Conference (NDRC21)

December 1-3, 2021

Clearwater Beach, FL

Registration is Open [National Disaster Resilience Conference \(NDRC21\) \(regfox.com\)](https://regfox.com)

AGU 2021 Fall Meeting

December 13-17, 2021

New Orleans, LA and virtual

Registration Opens August 23, 2021 [AGU Fall Meeting 2021](https://www.agu.org/fall-meeting-2021)

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**