WSSPC News

- WSSPC has appealed the FEMA decision to not award us multi-state NEHRP funding. If we did not appeal it would both be agreeing that our application was not worthy of an award and we would not be being supportive of the multiple WSSPC members state directors who formally backed our application in writing.
- The WSSPC Board of Directors has had two meetings since the grant application was turned down. The first meeting was an update of WSSPC finances and a discussion of contracts in place and pending. The second meeting was the initiation of discussion of paths forward for WSSPC. There will be further Board meetings on this topic. As always, people will be kept informed.
- At this time, the primary source of income for WSSPC are from state support and services contracts. WSSPC is supporting multiple state partners with developing and writing reports, strategies, and outreach materials. If your state or territory is in need of support, will be procuring assistance and, if your procurement process allows, please notify us of what is going on so WSSPC can potentially put in a bid.
- Please consider encouraging folks or organizations to become WSSPC Affiliate Members. Information on how to join can be found at: https://www.wsspc.org/members/affiliate-members/

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to ask!

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.
News of Interest

Every year in September we observe National Preparedness Month. This year’s theme is “Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.” Of significant note is that this year, for the very first time, FEMA has identified the Hispanic community as a key audience and will be putting out targeted Public Safety Announcements (PSA) as part of their outreach efforts.

Each week in September has its own “mini-theme.” These themes are independently supportive of the overarching idea of family preparedness, but are also structured to build upon each other. Family preparedness starts with making a family disaster plan and the mini-theme for the first week reflects this.

As an organization dedicated to reducing the near and far impacts of seismic events, WSSPC members can potentially leverage National Preparedness Month efforts to provide hazard specific information and guidance.

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
News of interest (cont.):

FEMA has published the [Natural Hazards Retrofit Program Toolkit (fema.gov)](https://fema.gov), A Guide for Designing a Disaster-Resilient Building Retrofit Program in Your Community. This publication was initiated and written by FEMA Region IX. It contains a wealth of information on:

- Behavioral Science
- Equity
- Team Building
- Historical Preservation
- Hazard Identification
- Hazard Mitigation
- Funding
- Vulnerability Identification
- Collecting a building inventory and analyzing it
- Community Partnerships
- Community Prioritizations
- Etc.

The publication discusses the criticality of whole community participation and buy-in of the retrofit process. From the publication:

“Knowing your community will help you determine how to target program incentives or regulations around retrofit activities. Knowing your community will also help you obtain feedback and communicate expectations for home or building owners early on—a key communication tool to help recruit and maintain an interested pool of participants. It is also important to consider what barriers your community members will face as they seek to participate in the program. Get to know ahead of time whether home or building owners might be affected by psychological, motivational, financial, bureaucratic, structural or legal barriers in the retrofit process. What is their risk tolerance? What is enough motivation to induce action?” (page 19)

This is a practical publication as it uses case studies and identifies best practices to help guide the implementation processes associated with structural retrofitting and increasing community resilience.
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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.)

**US Resiliency Council Webinar Series** on September 15, 2021. Topic is Earthquake Policy (Part 2)

**CEA Research Forum** on September 20–21, 2021. Topic is Equitable Residential Earthquake Resilience in California

**Resilient Nation Partnership Network**, Ideation Hour on September 22, 2021. Topics are: Defining Adaptation, Extreme Heat, and Rural Resilience

**WSSPC Earthquake Clearinghouse Workshop** on November 9–10, 2021. Registration is open!

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

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

WSSPC would like to thank the following 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
- Applied Technology Council
- Colorado Geologic Survey
- 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/

Online: www.wsspc.org | Twitter: @WSSPC | Facebook: www.facebook.com/WSSPC
Questions? Email: news@wsspc.org