



NEVADA EARTHQUAKE SAFETY COUNCIL

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May 5, 2004

TO: Mr. Ron Lynn, Chairman, Nevada Earthquake Safety Council
Board of Directors, Nevada Earthquake Safety Council

FROM: Jim Reagan, Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

RE: Annual Report of activities for Plan Year 2003

I am pleased to provide a summary of activities and efforts achieved by the Standing Committees and members of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council for the calendar year 2003. This is the first full year with the revised Strategic Plan utilizing three interactive standing committees. As with previous years, the committee members and members of the council have made great progress toward the mission and goals of the council and earthquake safety in Nevada. This years accomplishments include:

The **Education Committee** provided planning and activities throughout the year.

- o 2003 Earthquake Awareness Week was held on February 23-29 and successfully provided school earthquake drills and a poster contest
- o Ongoing development and workshops for the K-12 Nevada Educational Seismic Network
- o Beat the Quake – steps to earthquake safety, will be the educational and marketing theme for upcoming years. This was developed in conjunction with the Research and Policy committees

The **Research Committee** provides several ongoing and completed projects and efforts toward science and information on earthquake hazards.

- o Draft manuscript on fault exposure in Las Vegas Valley which is in scientific peer review
- o Council members are participating in a Utah Preliminary Fault Parameters Working Group to find consensus on fault hazards in the state, which is a model that can be brought to Nevada
- o There are new efforts in improving the information from the loss-estimating program, HAZUS, which will assist in planning. This is a combined effort with committees from the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The **Policy Committee** is a new role for council committee activities and has provided exceptional results this year. This is the first time that the council has endeavored to sponsor a bill to legislature that will strengthen the states infrastructure to resist earthquake damage.

- o Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, a council member, introduced assembly Bill 57, the Earthquake Safety Bill. The bill provides for improved structural seismic design standards for all state projects and provides for building jurisdictions within the state to adopt the most recent and appropriate seismic safety design and construction codes. Several council members testified on behalf of the intent of this bill. This bill was passed and signed by the Governor on June 9, 2003

- o The Policy Committee also developed draft Policy Recommendations for Mitigation of Nonstructural Hazards in Classrooms and also in Critical Facilities. The intent is for these policy recommendations to be endorsed by the council and utilized by the Division of Emergency Management to support Hazard Mitigation efforts statewide

Other seismic and earthquake safety related efforts provided to, or by the council include:

- o Information and updates on the Advanced National Seismic System in which Nevada is an ongoing partner providing many resources
- o Presentations on the Alaska Pipeline Design and how it survived the Denali Earthquake
- o Local scientist presenting insights on Black Hills Fault in Southern Nevada
- o NESC provided two representatives for the City of Las Vegas Integrated Emergency Management Course at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in Maryland in which the disaster scenario was an earthquake in Las Vegas Valley
- o Post-earthquake studies on damage to building structures from the Northridge Earthquake
- o Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation – an approach to strengthening buildings
- o Research priorities for investigating earthquake hazards of Nevada
- o SILVVER – Seismic Investigations in Las Vegas Valley Evaluating Risks, a project headed by council member and local scientist which imaged the basin depth and three-dimensional structure of sediments in the valley
- o Quarterly updates on recent earthquakes nationally and worldwide
- o In 2003 the council provided support of information and education opportunities such as the ATC-20 courses, Hazard Mitigation Workshop, Basin and Range Seismic Hazards Summit, and Earthquake Hazards in Southern Nevada, AEG meetings and efforts, WSSPC annual conference, and many more opportunities to inform and educate Nevadans and regional partners
- o Each year the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council seeks proposals on mitigation projects and prioritizes them for the Division of Emergency Management. This year there were 13 projects worth \$235,853. The end of year funds available from state and federal grants was significant enough to see that the majority of these projects will be funded and completed

In summary, the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council has provided a successful venue for science, research, and information on Nevada's Earthquake Hazards to be promulgated in legislature, provided to business and industry, and delivered to the citizens of Nevada. Additional information and details of these accomplishments are noted in the minutes of the quarterly meetings. The many contributors to this outstanding effort are recognized in the minutes, and it is important to note that it does indeed take many contributors, individually and in concert with one or more committees, to achieve the goal of Earthquake Safety in Nevada.