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### Comprehensive Earthquake Preparedness Planning Guidelines: City

Part I - User's Guide Part II - Planning Guide Part III - References

May 1985

Developed by the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS PROJECT POLICY ADVISORY BOARD 1983-84

The Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project Policy Advisory Board guides the work of the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project and provides outreach to the planning communities.

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#### CITY

# COMPREHENSIVE EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING GUIDELINES INTRODUCTION

Scientists have estimated the probability of a catastrophic earthquake in Southern California as being greater than fifty percent in the next thirty years. A catastrophic earthquake occurring in urbanized areas will produce devastating effects. Depending upon the time of day, thousands may be killed and injured, and billions of dollars of property damage will be inflicted. Loss of productivity will be widespread and long-lasting. The event will impact millions of people and affect not only Southern California, but the rest of the nation as well. While little can be done to stop the event itself, much can and must be done to prepare for it and mitigate its effects.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Earthquake Preparedness Planning Guidelines (hereafter referred to as "Guidelines") is to assist city governments in developing a comprehensive plan to ensure an effective and coordinated response to a predicted or unpredicted catastrophic earthquake. The Guidelines are designed to be used by the City Council, the City Administrative Officer, City departments and agencies, and appointed commissions and boards.

The Guidelines are among the products developed under a two-year program conducted by the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project (SCEPP). The products were developed through a series of planning partnerships with several local governments and private sector entities. They represent the professional

judgement of those agencies as to the functions, assignments and activities to be performed in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from catastrophic earthquakes.

The Guidelines consist of three parts: the User's Guide, the Planning Guide and References.

PART I - The User's Guide - provides information on the steps to follow in establishing and implementing a city-wide comprehensive earthquake prearedness planning process. The User's Guide describes a ten-step planning approach for developing a multi-phased earthquake preparedness program.

PART II - The Planning Guide - is the heart of the Guidelines. The Planning Guide is divided into four planning elements or time phases. These deal with long- and short-term preparedness, the emergency response phase, and short-term recovery. The Planning Guide describes for each phase the principal functions, primary and support department and agency assignments, and the activities which should be considered when developing specific operating procedures and checklists to be included into the city's emergency preparedness plan.

PART III - <u>References</u> - is a bibliography of publications which can be used in the city's preparedness planning effort. Reference materials describe school programs, neighborhood self-help programs, legal authorities and liabilities, county and corporate planning guidance, small business guidance, and others.

The User's Guide and the Planning Guide provide guidance to city governments in preparing comprehensive plans, but should not be considered as sample or model plans. Initially prepared with the assistance of local personnel, they are intended to augment existing local, State and Federal guidance materials.

The Guidelines are compatible with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS) planning approach and have both FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) endorsements. While specific to catastrophic earthquake planning, the planning process described in the User's Guide can be used for examining the adequacy of planning for a wide variety of hazards.

The use of the Guidelines should result in the formulation of a city multi-year earthquake hazard reduction plan, improved operational response plans and procedures, and the creation of a planning element which addresses the short-term recovery.

As a result of the comprehensive city preparedness planning effort, mitigation and preparedness actions taken before the occurrence of a catastrophic earthquake will result in more efficient and less costly response and recovery efforts.

Knowledge of seismic phenomena and their potential impacts on urban centers is constantly growing. Use of this information can only improve and refine planning efforts by providing more specific information on earthquake occurrence and

the quantification of earthquake effects. The Guidelines therefore introduce the element of developing specific responses to earthquake predictions.

In addition to the city guidance, planning guidance appropriate for use by counties and private sector corporations has also been developed in the same format. That documentation, as well as other references is described in Part III.