

DRAFT

**CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY
CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

1-323-886-4439; Conference ID Number 790 397 389

Members of the California Residential Mitigation Program (CRMP) Governing Board in attendance:

Christina Curry, Vice Chair, Deputy Director, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Laurie Johnson, CEA Appointee, CRMP Governing Board

Jim Lombard, CEA Appointee, CRMP Governing Board

Alex Pal, Chief Legal Counsel, Cal OES

Members of the CRMP Staff in attendance:

Janiele Maffei, Executive Director, CRMP

Annde Ewertsen, Managing Director, CRMP

Benjamin Kirwan, Treasurer, CRMP

Seth Merewitz, Counsel, CRMP

Tom Welsh, Secretary, CRMP

Jacqueline Ball, Program Analyst

D'Anne Ousley, Communications Specialist

Also Present:

No members of the public addressed the Governing Board.

1. Call to order and member roll call.

Ms. Curry called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was achieved.

2. Consideration and acceptance of appointment letter designating Jim Lombard, CEA Chief Administrative Officer, and Laurie Johnson, CEA Chief Catastrophe Response & Resiliency Officer, as members of the CRMP Governing Board.

MOTION: Mr. Pal moved to accept the appointment letter designating Jim Lombard, CEA Chief Administrative Officer, and Laurie Johnson, CEA Chief Catastrophe Response & Resiliency Officer, as members of the CRMP Governing Board. Ms. Curry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Curry welcomed Dr. Johnson and Mr. Lombard to the Governing Board and asked them to introduce themselves.

3. Nomination and vote to determine new Chair, CRMP Governing Board, and nomination and vote to determine new Vice Chair, CRMP Governing Board.

Ms. Curry asked for nominations for chair of the CRMP.

Mr. Lombard nominated Laurie Johnson as chair of the CRMP. Mr. Pal Seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Lombard moved to elect Laurie Johnson as chair of the California Residential Mitigation Program Governing Board. Mr. Pal seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

Ms. Curry deferred to Dr. Johnson to facilitate the rest of the meeting.

Dr. Johnson asked for nominations for vice chair of the CRMP.

Mr. Pal nominated Christina Curry as vice chair of the CRMP. Mr. Lombard seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Pal moved to reelect Christina Curry as vice chair of the California Residential Mitigation Program Governing Board. Mr. Lombard seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

4. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2020, Governing Board Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Curry moved approval of the December 8, 2020, California Residential Mitigation Program Governing Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Pal seconded. Motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.

5. CRMP Executive Director Janiele Maffei will present her executive report.

Janiele Maffei, CRMP Executive Director, updated the Governing Board on the CRMP and CEA mitigation interests and projects:

Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) and CEA Brace + Bolt (CEA BB) Retrofits to Date

- Approximately 14,000 retrofits have been completed to date.
- An additional 1.2 million homes are in areas of high hazard that can benefit from seismic retrofitting.
- Ms. Maffei gave a demonstration of the Retrofits Mapping Dashboard and pointed out areas of interest across the state, particularly areas where the EBB Low-Income Program is progressing.

Retrofit Grants

- Grants to date total \$24 million.
- Additional grants are anticipated from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant funds.
- CRMP grant applications are made as strong as possible with the assistance of Cal OES.

EBB Low-Income Program

- The EBB Low-Income Program will be piloted in Alameda County during this first year to learn how communication devices are working prior to expanding the outreach to all available ZIP Codes, as part of the registration process.
- The EBB Low-Income Program provides the base \$3,000 grant plus a supplementary grant that will pay for most if not all of the retrofit costs.

CEA-PEER Research Project

- The four-year CEA-Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) Research Project on residential seismic retrofits was published in the fall of 2020.
- Findings include estimated average savings for four generic house type vulnerabilities - cripple wall, living-space-over-garage, hillside house, and chimney - in four scenario earthquakes.
- Many of the applications for HMA and BRIC grant programming are to introduce a pilot program for the living-space-over-garage vulnerability.
- The cripple wall vulnerability EBB program will continue while the Earthquake Soft-Story for Single-Family Houses and Small Multi-family Housing programs will be added.

New CRMP Website

- The new CRMP website, StrengthenMyHouse.com, contains information to help homeowners better understand the four vulnerabilities and hazards and what to do about them.

Legislative Efforts

- H.R. 5494 Catastrophe Loss Mitigation Incentive and Tax Parity Act of 2019 makes state-funded grants for natural catastrophe mitigation tax exempt at the federal level and will soon be reintroduced in the Legislature under a new bill number.
- This bill is essential to the mitigation program for parity.

6. CRMP Treasurer Benjamin Kirwan will review the CRMP financial statements as of December 31, 2020.

Benjamin Kirwan, CRMP Treasurer, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the CRMP Financial Report as of December 31, 2020.

7. CRMP Managing Director Annde Ewertsen will present the CRMP Mitigation (Earthquake Brace + Bolt) update.

Annde Ewertsen, CRMP Managing Director, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the CRMP and CEA EBB Programs, future funding opportunities, program contractors, regional cost differences, and withdrawn applications and completion rates. She stated the new website and database rolled out in January with good results. She noted that the total cost for retrofits came down in 2020.

Questions and Discussion

Dr. Johnson asked why the cost for retrofits has gone down.

Ms. Ewertsen stated more expensive retrofits are often seen later in the program year.

Ms. Maffei added contractors tend to give higher bids in higher income areas. Contractors worked in higher income areas when the program started. Now that the program is spreading out into a wider, diverse demographic, the average cost has come down.

8. CRMP Managing Director Annde Ewertsen will present to the Governing Board an update of the CRMP Business Plan, for approval.

Ms. Ewertsen reviewed the proposed changes to the CRMP Business Plan, which were included in the meeting materials.

Questions and Discussion

Ms. Curry referred to Item 2B Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and FEMA Grants, on page 29, and stated the staff memo indicates that the proposed change is “Cal OES shall not contribute” while the red-line version states “Cal OES may contribute.” Also, she asked to strike the word “through” so it would read “FEMA or other grant programs” on the red-line version.

Seth Merewitz, Counsel, CRMP, stated the updated red-line version was inadvertently not included in the meeting materials and noted that it includes all changes proposed in the meeting materials.

Ms. Ewertsen read the correct proposed language as “Cal OES shall not contribute to the CRMP funds appropriated to Cal OES in the state budget for administrative or operations costs except for funds provided by FEMA or other grant programs.”

MOTION: Mr. Lombard moved staff’s proposed changes to the CRMP Business Plan. Ms. Curry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. CRMP Managing Director Annde Ewertsen will present to the Governing Board the proposed 2021 CRMP Governing Board Meeting Schedule, for approval.

Ms. Ewertsen reviewed the proposed 2021 CRMP Governing Board Meeting Schedule, which was included in the meeting materials.

MOTION: Mr. Pal moved approval of the proposed 2021 CRMP Governing Board Meeting Schedule. Dr. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Public comment on items that do not appear on this agenda and public requests that those matters be placed on a future agenda.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

11. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.