

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

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

1-323-886-4439; Conference ID Number 387 982 28

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

Laurie Johnson, Chair, CRMP Governing Board
Lori Nezhura, Vice Chair Appointee, Deputy Director, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
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
Jacqueline Ball, Program Analyst

Also Present:

No members of the public addressed the Governing Board.

1. Call to order and member roll call.

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. A quorum was achieved.

2. Consideration and acceptance of Cal OES appointment letter designating Lori Nezhura, Deputy Director, Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention, Cal OES, as Vice Chair, CRMP Governing Board.

MOTION: Mr. Pal moved to accept the individual presented in notice of appointment as member of the CRMP Governing Board. Mr. Lombard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2021, CRMP Governing Board meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Lombard moved approval of the March 9, 2021, California Residential Mitigation Program Governing Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Chair Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

4. 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

- Just under 15,000 retrofits have been completed to date.

Supplemental Grants

- New grants specifically aimed at underserved neighborhoods will be introduced in 2021.
- Up to \$3,000 will be provided to homeowners who do a code-compliant retrofit. A supplementary grant above and beyond the \$3,000 will soon be introduced that will provide 100 percent or close to 100 percent for individuals who need additional assistance in paying for their retrofit.
- Additional Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) funding is expected in the third or four quarters of this year.

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.

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.

5. CRMP Treasurer Benjamin Kirwan will review the CRMP financial statements as of March 31, 2021.

Benjamin Kirwan, CRMP Treasurer, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the CRMP financial information as of March 31, 2021.

Questions and Discussion

Chair Johnson referred to the Budgeted Expenditures and Actual Expenditures Statement and asked about the timeline for the two FEMA grants that have not yet funded.

Annde Ewertsen, Managing Director, stated those grants have not yet been awarded. She noted that the yearend budget includes forecasted figures.

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

Ms. Ewertzen provided an overview of the CRMP and CEA Earthquake Brace + Bolt Programs, FEMA-trained contractor data, regional cost, retrofit data, withdrawn homeowners, and future funding opportunities. She stated staff is watching the implementation of a \$250 million set-aside in the Governor's May Revise for an all-hazards initiative called Prepare California, designed to plan and build disaster-resilient communities. This aligns well with the potential Supplemental Grants.

Ms. Ewertzen stated the EBB Program website is now up-and-running.

Questions and Discussion

Chair Johnson asked how the new Supplemental Grants will be tracked and if there will be a separate branding and website.

Ms. Ewertzen stated ESS, grants, and phone calls will be tracked separately. The website will be changed to use the StrengthenMyHome.com website and roll the grant program under that with EBB and ESS as subpages. That is currently in review.

7. 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.

8. Adjournment.

Chair Johnson stated the next meeting is August 31st. She asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Lombard moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pal seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.