

*As approved by the Governing Board on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.*

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

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
1:00 p.m.**

1-323-886-4439; Conference ID Number 739 649 959

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

Laurie Johnson, PhD, Chair, Chief Catastrophe Response and Resiliency Officer, California Earthquake Authority (CEA)

Lori Nezhura, Vice Chair, Deputy Director of Planning, Preparedness, and Prevention, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Jim Lombard, Chief Administrative Officer, CEA

Alex Pal, Chief Counsel, Cal OES

Members of the Staff in attendance:

Janiele Maffei, Executive Director, CRMP

Annde Ewertsen, Managing Director, CRMP

Benjamin Kirwan, Treasurer, CRMP

Seth Merewitz, Counsel, CRMP

Sheris Tamblyn, Program Support Analyst, CRMP

Tom Welsh, Secretary, CRMP

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 approval of the minutes of the November 30, 2021, CRMP Governing Board Meeting.**

Chair Johnson asked staff to clean up inconsistencies in titles and affiliations in the list of Members.

**MOTION:** Ms. Nezhura moved approval of the November 30, 2021, California Residential Mitigation Program Governing Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Lombard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. 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

- Retrofits strengthen four vulnerabilities: cripple wall, living-space-over garage, hillside house, and chimney.
  - Cripple wall vulnerability is remediated by the EBB Program.
  - Living-space-over garage vulnerability is known as Earthquake Soft-Story (ESS)
    - ESS information is being added to the website.
    - ESS is similar to the EBB Program, although the homeowner experience will be different. Rules are being written, graphics are being provided, and information is being included to help homeowners understand ESS vulnerabilities.
    - There is little data on the amount the ESS Program will cost. Computer-aided design (CAD) drawings are being put together in conformance with FEMA P-1100, the Code Standard used. Permutations will be put out to cost estimators to do cost evaluations to provide a sense of the cost of remediation.
- Over 16,000 retrofits have been completed to date.
- Supplemental grants for income-eligible homeowners have been included in this year's registration period. This grant provides 100 percent of the funds needed to help strengthen houses in disadvantaged communities.
- The CEA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) application was submitted in 2021. A short list is expected in June.
- Cal OES launched a \$100 million grant program called Prepare California to fund infrastructure projects in California in an effort to build more resilient communities in areas of high hazard and areas with a high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).

#### Legislative Efforts

- The Disaster Mitigation and Tax Parity Act is a bill that would make rebates that homeowners receive to make natural disaster mitigation improvements to their homes exempt from federal taxes. It includes earthquake, wildfire, and wind and is multi-state to make housing more resilient to natural disasters
  - The tax parity issue was attached to the Build Back Better Act to garner more attention. The bill is currently in the Senate.

#### Mean Retrofit Costs

Ms. Maffei stated retrofit data from the retrofits completed to date is being tracked by program, by pre-COVID, COVID, and quarter, and by year to establish the mean retrofit cost and to ensure that the retrofit grant is always relevant and is used to ensure that the Supplemental Grant Program funding can meet the needs of as many homeowners as possible. She deferred to Annde Ewertsen to provide details on the data tracking effort.

Annde Ewertsen, CRMP Managing Director, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the mean retrofit cost data, definitions, and data range. She showed bar charts for each area being tracked.

**4. CRMP Treasurer Benjamin Kirwan will review the CRMP financial statements as of December 31, 2021.**

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

Chair Johnson asked about the increase in insurance.

Mr. Kirwan stated rate increases have been seen across the board, the majority of which is cyber-related.

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

Ms. Ewertsen provided an overview of the EBB staff efforts, CRMP and CEA Earthquake Brace + Bolt Programs by program cycle, retrofit funding type by year completed, future funding opportunities, EBB Program contractors, regional differences, engineered and non-engineered retrofits, and withdrawn applications and completion rates. She stated the outreach campaign that began in December continues to encourage contractors to include the new ZIP Codes in their contractor listing and also encourages contractors to finish the training, if they have not already.

Ms. Ewertsen continued the slide presentation and reviewed the open registration data, and provided grant and RFP-Q updates. She stated approximately 13,000 homeowners registered for the program, which is the largest registration to date. CRMP released an RFP-Q in mid-January for marketing and PR services. The selected candidate's contract will be brought to the May 2022 Board meeting for approval.

Discussion

Mr. Pal thanked staff for expediting the RFP-Q process.

Ms. Maffei asked about data on engineering consultant costs.

Ms. Ewertsen stated that information is not called out on the data field.

Chair Johnson clarified that the additional \$80 million that the CRMP was requested to submit at the end of December is in addition to the other funding discussed.

**6. CRMP Managing Director Annde Ewertsen will provide an update of the Business Plan for review and approval.**

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

Discussion

Chair Johnson suggested a review of the CRMP guiding documents.

Seth Merewitz, Counsel, CRMP, stated privacy and procurement policies were reviewed this past year. The Business Plan is reviewed annually. Staff continually monitors these items.

Chair Johnson stated she will contact Mr. Merewitz offline regarding her questions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Pal moved staff's proposed changes to the CRMP Business Plan. Mr. Lombard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**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.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.