



State Of California

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.



PRESS RELEASE

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California Seismic and Agriculture Experts to Discuss Quake Threats to State's Agriculture

Sacramento—The California Seismic Safety Commission is meeting with key individuals, both from California and abroad, to discuss efforts to reduce the potential catastrophic impacts a natural disaster could have on the State of California's agriculture industry.

The Commission's meeting at California State University Monterey Bay will focus on reducing earthquake losses and speeding economic recovery to the agricultural, livestock, dairy, and poultry industries after a natural disaster, such as an earthquake.

In 2011, The Department of Food and Agriculture reports that California's 81,500 farms and ranches produced more than \$43.5 billion in exportable goods. Of those ranches and farms, many are located within the central valley and central coast where at least 10 earthquake fault lines traverse the area.

"The agriculture industry is a huge economic engine to my home region of the Salinas Valley, and the State of California," said State and Consumer Services Agency Secretary, Anna Caballero. "We're the largest agriculture state in the country, so it's only logical that the commission remain focused on helping this industry develop a preparation plan for a major natural disaster, like an earthquake."

"Recent international seismic events have demonstrated the vulnerability of the agricultural industry to interruptions of feed, water and electricity. Prolonged interruption of any of these resources can result in loss of an entire crop, herd or flock," said Seismic Safety Commission Chair Michael Gardner.

The Commission meeting will include testimony from Dr. Daniel Sumner, Director of the University of California Davis Agricultural Issues Center, and Mr. Mark Borman, President of Taylor Farms, who will discuss agricultural sustainability in the event of a major earthquake. In addition, Japan's Consul General Hiroshi Inomata will attend the commission meeting and discuss post-earthquake recovery actions implemented by the Japanese government. The Commission meeting is open to the public and credentialed media:

Thursday March 14th 9am
CSU Monterey Bay
100 Campus Center, University Center Ballroom
Seaside, California

For information contact Sue Celli at (916) 263-5506 or visit the Seismic Safety Commission's website at www.seismic.ca.gov.

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