

# Feds donate \$5M toward Calif. quake alert system

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PASADENA, Calif. -- California's prototype earthquake warning system is getting a \$5 million boost from the federal government.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced the funding in a statement Thursday. He says the money will go toward improving the system's capability.

Scientists at the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) and several universities have been developing the quake alert system for several years. The prototype only sends a test warning to select researchers and agencies after an earthquake. They're not broadcast to the public.

Supporters say having a few seconds' notice will allow people to duck under a table or allow trains to stop.

The price tag for a functional system is estimated at \$80 million. Scientists say they would need to upgrade 400 monitoring stations and add 200 new ones to make the current system more reliable.