



Executive Directive 10-02
Earthquake Safety Implementation Committee (ESIC)

December 22, 2010

ABOUT CAPSS

The Community Action Plan for Seismic Safety (CAPSS), run by the Department of Building Inspection, is a 9-year, \$1 million effort to catalogue the specific seismic risks San Francisco faces as a result of damage to privately-owned property from future earthquakes, and suggestions on how to best mitigate this loss of life and property damage. The project ends on December 31, 2010, and CAPSS has completed reports describing the scope of vulnerability faced by San Francisco, and recommendations as to what steps the City can take to mitigate these risks.

THE CONSEQUENCES

USGS scientists have forecast 63% likelihood of one or more M6.7 or larger earthquakes striking the Bay Area in the next 30 years. Using GPS to measure strain accumulating along the San Andreas fault, scientists report that enough strain has re-accumulated along the Peninsula segment of the San Andreas already to produce a M7.2 earthquake. This event, which seismologists call the "expected" earthquake, would lead to an estimated 300 fatalities, 7,000 injuries requiring medical attention, 27,000 buildings being condemned, 2,700 additional buildings destroyed by fire, 85,000 housing units lost, and up to \$30 billion in property damage.

All told, after shaking and fire, almost a fifth of the City's buildings would be uninhabitable or destroyed, including an estimated 11 million square feet that will burn. More detailed tables on casualties and building damage are attached to this Directive as Appendix A.

THE SOLUTIONS

The CAPSS reports present a very grim picture. But they also suggest policies and programs to mitigate as much damage and loss of life as possible. It all begins with requiring owners to evaluate the seismic performance of their buildings at the next sale or by a time-certain deadline. This citywide evaluation would be paired with updated code standards for all common building types in San Francisco, which would be mandatory by different deadlines for different specific retrofits.

CAPSS proposes a set of 17 recommendations to get buildings evaluated and retrofitted. A full outline of recommendations is attached to this Directive as Appendix B. Taken together, CAPSS's suggested policies will save lives and prevent billions of dollars in property damage. CAPSS details prioritized timetables for much of this seismic upgrading, a chart of which is attached as Appendix C.

NEXT STEPS

The scientific research is complete: San Francisco faces grave consequences when the next big earthquake hits. CAPSS provides us with actions we need to take to mitigate this damage. The next phase of the CAPSS program must include:

- 1) Raising the public's awareness of the consequences of future earthquakes and what we can do to prevent the resulting loss of life and property damage
- 2) Building a broad base of political will to enact government programs and mandates to get this work accomplished
- 3) Locating resources to assist with the retrofit of private structures



Over the next several decades, billions of dollars must be spent on retrofitting privately owned buildings if we hope to prevent hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and tens of billions of dollars of damage. Some of this money will come from private citizens paying to retrofit their own property. But some funding must be made available through government financing, either in the form of GO Bonds, special assessments, or some other instrument.

San Francisco needs a comprehensive program that links disparate interests together for a common cause. When the ground shakes and buildings fall, the damage and displacement of residents impacts the whole City. Loss of housing, tent camps, economic devastation, fires – these afflictions don't discriminate between neighborhoods or blocks.

Earthquake prevention requires citywide effort to achieve citywide benefit. In order to successfully educate the public on what must be done, the City must outreach to neighborhood councils, building owners, tenant associations, commercial builders, and dozens of other groups. Only with a citywide approach like this can we win support for the comprehensive interventions necessary to reduce the risks that San Francisco faces. Awareness breeds urgency. Urgency paves the way for solutions. The next phase of CAPSS must be widespread awareness, and knowledge of the relative risks posed by each building.

Directive Establishing ESIC Under the City Administrator

To that end, I am directing the City Administrator to oversee the process of outreaching to interested parties around the City to build a broad coalition of supporters to implement the CAPSS recommendations. The City Administration is currently tasked with post-disaster planning, coordination and recovery, and ESIC aligns with this existing responsibility. We have scientifically supported conclusions about how the next earthquake will impact San Francisco. We now need to implement.

This Directive establishes the Earthquake Safety Implementation Committee (ESIC), with the main objective being timely implementation of the 17 policy recommendations included in the CAPSS Task 4 report.

- Coordinating with DBI to create implementation plans and timelines for CAPSS's recommendations and tasking other departments with implementation assignments;
- Performing community outreach to build political support for a comprehensive, long-term earthquake mitigation strategy;
- Clarifying, through stakeholder meetings and further research, the costs associated with the CAPSS recommendations;
- Devising a variety of financial instruments to subsidize for the cost of implementing seismic mitigation activities on private property, through both the legislative process and public-private partnerships with the financial and mortgage sectors; and
- Building consensus around timelines for inspection and retrofit, taking into account CAPSS's recommended time frames and community feedback on feasibility and desire to perform the work.

The City Administrator should work closely with the following entities or their designees: the Controller, the Office of Public Finance, the Director of DBI, the President of the Building Inspection Commission, the Fire Chief, and the Director of the Department of Emergency Management. All other City departments and agencies are directed to cooperate with the City Administrator's requests for information, participation, and action pertaining to ESIC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom
Mayor