

ACTION ITEMS FROM 11/20/14 TOWN HALL ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & HOLLYWOOD FAULT

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Assessing true dimensions of Hollywood Fault

- Need to consider expanding 50-foot development ban away from fault to account for width of fissure as well as angle of fault, which if measured from 50 feet below may add several additional feet in either direction.
- The State should consider revising its 50-foot rule to reflect the three different categories of faults (A,B&C), with larger distances required for faults with the potential to produce more significant destruction.
- The City should contract with the U.S. Geological Survey or other neutral agency to map out the central Hollywood area along north-south streets. The DWP, private utilities and the Gas Co. could be asked to help finance.
- The City should consider the use of boreholes in targeted areas across Hollywood to better determine precise where the fault plain lies. The disadvantage to relying on developers to perform this work is that the fault may lie just outside of the property they are investigating and be missed.

Better access for State and City geologists

- The City should make clear to all developers whose properties lie within an earthquake zone that they must allow full access to government geologists to examine their testing or risk forfeiting their Certificate of Occupancy.

- The State should provide Geological Survey staff the power to subpoena any geotechnical reports produced by California licensed geologists, using the State's licensing power as leverage to ensure that they comply fully.

Improving public access to consultant reports

- Building & Safety's Grading division should scan and post online all reports provided to it by consultants for properties located in the vicinity of a fault. Members of the public should not have to pay for seismic reports or submit freedom of information requests to the department to receive copies.
- The City should cease the practice of returning reports to consultants that might result in a negative outcome and only making public "certified reports," thereby encouraging consultants to cherry pick data and leave out information that might suggest that a fault runs through part of a property.

Better coordination between, within City and State

- The Governor should clarify that the State Geological Survey is the sole agency responsible for determining where fault lines lie and remind the State Mining and Geology Board that while they are welcome to make recommendations, it should not try to undercut the Geological Survey.
- The State should continue to fund the regular updating of fault maps and the City should commit to using only the most recent information in its land use decisions. The City should also ensure that only certified geologists be empowered to review consultant reports on fault line investigations.

Implications for zoning and Planning

- The fault-zone map needs to be integrated into the Hollywood Community Plan, which needs to be recirculated following its recent vacation by a judge. The permissible density of properties within 50 feet of the fault should be lowered, as should the types of buildings permitted there.

Increasing efficiency at LADBS

- The City used to have an active Grading Appeals Board, which convened a panel of experts from the field of geology to analyze some of the most complex cases arising across the City. While the Board historically heard appeals regarding landslides and hillside grading permits, it could easily be modified to review research conducted by consultants for developments.
- The City should produce a checklist for consulting geology firms to use to ensure that their reports include all of the information needed for LADBS to properly analyze their findings. Such a checklist need not be very long.