



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
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GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: November 13, 2008

Agenda Item No. 6: Public Hearing: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 2696(b) and Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 3723(a), a hearing will be conducted to receive comments and recommendations for the Preliminary Seismic Hazard Zone Maps specific to the areas encompassed in the Altamont Quadrangle, Alameda County.

INTRODUCTION: The Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (CGS) has announced release of three new Preliminary Seismic Hazard Zone Maps for review and comment. The subject map is specific to the area encompassed in the Altamont Quadrangle, Alameda County. The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) receives comments from those wishing to make presentations regarding the specific Preliminary Seismic Hazard Map under discussion. Comments received are subsequently transmitted to the State Geologist for consideration prior to the publication of the final Seismic Hazard Zone Map.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: California Seismic Hazards Mapping Act regulations are provided under Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Article 10, Section 3720 et seq. Pursuant to the CCR, Article 10, Section 3722(a):

"The Mining and Geology Board shall provide an opportunity for receipt of public comments and recommendations during the 90-day period for review of preliminary seismic hazard zone maps provided by the Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2696. At least one public hearing shall be scheduled for that purpose."

CCR Section 3722(b) further states:

"Following the end of the review period, the Board shall forward its comments and recommendations, with supporting data received, to the State Geologist for consideration prior to revision and official issuance of the maps."

BACKGROUND: The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act requires the State Geologist to compile and issue maps identifying seismic hazard zones, also referred to as Zones of Required Investigation (ZORI), and to distribute them to all affected cities, counties and state agencies. The release of a Preliminary Map provides a 90-day public comment period for technical review and comment on the content of the Preliminary Map and the accompanying



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Evaluation Report. Once the public comment period has ended, the CGS then has 90 days to revise the map, as appropriate, and issue the Official Seismic Hazard Zone Map to affected cities, counties and state agencies. The map is issued approximately six months after the Preliminary Release.

State agencies proposing structures within a ZORI should require a geotechnical investigation report prior to construction. Copies of these reports should be forwarded to the State Geologist within 30 days of approval of the report. CCR Section 3724 outlines specific criteria for project approval. Additional guidance pertaining to the responsibilities of cities, counties and state agencies, and guidelines for evaluating and mitigating seismic hazards, have been developed by the SMGB as required pursuant to PRC Section 2695. These guidelines are published in CGS (formerly Division of Mines and Geology) Special Publication 117.

The map is prepared using techniques recommended by the Seismic Hazard Mapping Act Advisory Committee and the SMGB. Two liquefaction hazard zones are defined utilizing detailed surface and subsurface geologic information, in combination with historic high water table data, and the estimation of the maximum earthquake ground shaking likely to occur in the next 50 years. The earthquake-induced landslide hazard zones are delineated using a modified Newmark analysis that incorporates terrain steepness and rock-strength data with estimates of ground shaking associated with future earthquakes.

The State Geologist notes that the extent of the liquefaction and landslide hazards in each ZORI may not be uniform. The purpose of establishing these zones is to include areas within which soil conditions, topography, and the likelihood of future ground shaking indicate sufficient hazard potential to justify a geotechnical investigation. The required investigation will identify the specific characteristics of individual project sites before land-use permits are granted. This process enables local agencies to stipulate appropriate conditional requirements for the design and/or construction that can mitigate future earthquake losses. In developed regions, the Seismic Hazard Zone Maps delineating areas where geologic studies are required should not be used to infer that all existing construction within the zone boundaries is hazardous. The properties of local soil conditions and the characteristics of individual buildings are too variable for such regional conclusions to be applied appropriately.

DISCUSSION: The Altamont Quadrangle, Alameda County, covers approximately 59 square miles, and includes part of the City of Livermore. Most of the sixty-two plus geotechnical logs evaluated for this study represent boreholes drilled into the floor of Livermore Valley. About nine of the 20 square miles of valley floor are designated *Zones of Required Investigation* for liquefaction hazard. About 14 of the 40 miles of upland area within the Altamont Quadrangle are designated *Zones of Required Investigation* for earthquake-induced landslide hazard.



The Preliminary Seismic Hazard Zone Map for the Altamont Quadrangle was issued by CGS on August 27, 2008. An opportunity is being provided by the SMGB for receipt of public comments and recommendations during the 90-day period for review of preliminary seismic hazard zone maps as provided by the Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2696. Technical comments are due on or before November 27, 2008.

No responses have been received as of the preparation of this Executive Officer's report.

CONSIDERATION OF THE SMGB: The SMGB will take no action, but will receive comments from those wishing to make presentations regarding the specific Preliminary Seismic Hazard Map under discussion. Comments received will be transmitted to the State Geologist for consideration prior to the publication of the final Seismic Hazard Map for the Altamont Quadrangle, Alameda County.

Respectfully submitted:

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Executive Officer

