



Max Anderson
Councilmember District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 2, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Max Anderson
Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Subject: Support of SB 135 Earthquake Early Warning System

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 135 which would require the development of a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

Most Californians have experienced firsthand the effects of an earthquake. We all know that another major earthquake in California is not a matter of if, but when. Senator Alex Padilla introduced SB 135 would designate the Office of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), the California Geological Survey, the University of California Berkeley, the United States Geological Survey, and others, to develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system in California. Here in California, the California Institute of Technology, U.C. Berkeley, U.S. Geological Survey, California Geological Survey and others operate a demonstration earthquake early warning system called the California Integrated Seismic Network. SB 135 would build upon that progress and calls for a fully developed statewide system that would detect seismic activity, determine the progression and alert people in advance of an approaching earthquake to save lives and mitigate damage. Current California law is silent on the development of an earthquake early warning system.

For full bill language, please visit http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0101-0150/sb_135_bill_20130128_introduced.html

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. #####

SUPPORT OF SB 135 EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, according to the United States Geological Survey, California is one of the most seismically active states, second only to Alaska; and

WHEREAS, California has experienced dozens of disastrous earthquakes that have caused fatalities, serious injuries, and significant economic loss; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study published by the Caltech and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology discovered that a statewide California earthquake involving both the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas may be possible; and

WHEREAS, California Emergency Management Agency, Caltech, California Geological Survey, University of California Berkeley, United States Geological Survey, and others have been conducting early warning research and development in California and together they operate the California Integrated Seismic Network, which has a demonstration earthquake early warning capability; and

WHEREAS, by building upon the California integrated seismic network and processing data from an array of sensors throughout the state, a fully developed earthquake early warning system would effectively detect the strength and progression of earthquakes and alert the public within seconds, up to 60 seconds, before potentially damaging ground shaking is felt; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley must do all it can to better prepare for future earthquakes and that an earthquake early warning system should disseminate earthquake information in support of public safety, emergency response, and loss mitigation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council hereby supports SB 135 (Padilla) that would create an earthquake early warning system in California.