

incorporates new technologies to quickly provide vital, WEB-accessible information. Earthquake size, location, and maps of areas most likely to have sustained strong ground motion damage are available to emergency response personnel within minutes of an earthquake.

5.1.6 Related State Laws and Guidelines

At the state level, out of hundreds of safety related bills adopted over several decades, several stand out as relevant to Safety Element preparation.

The **Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act** of 1971 requires the State Geologist to prepare maps showing study zones around active faults. Within Alquist-Priolo zones, local governments must require geological reports to be submitted for proposed development projects. The State must be provided copies of these geological reports. Note: When passed, the Alquist-Priolo Act was originally titled the Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone Act. The name was later changed to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act: A recent expansion of state legislation dealing with geological hazards is the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act of 1990 (S.B. 3897), which requires the State Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) to map areas with potential for strong ground shaking, liquefaction and seismically induced landslides. The DMG must also develop guidelines for the preparation of maps of seismic hazard zones. Within hazardous zones, as designated by DMG maps or guidelines, the Act mandates:

- submission of geotechnical reports for proposed development projects;
- adherence to State policy and criteria in determining appropriate hazard mitigation techniques or in waiving the requirement for geotechnical reports on individual projects;
- geotechnical reports and local actions in response to them must go through advisory review by the DMG.

No DMG mapping under the 1990 Act has yet been completed for Riverside County, nor is any funded in the near future (CDMG, 2000).

The California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1986 established the

California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program under the guidance of the Seismic Safety Commission. This umbrella program proposes overall policy and tracks progress in State earthquake hazard mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programs geared to the objective of significantly reducing earthquake hazards in California by January 1, 2000.

The Building Earthquake Safety Act of 1986 requires all local governments to identify all potentially hazardous buildings within their jurisdictions and to establish a program for mitigation of identified hazards. It is the legislative basis for the inventory of hazardous unreinforced masonry buildings and Unreinforced Masonry Ordinances adopted by most counties and cities in California.

The Recovery (and) Reconstruction Act of 1986 authorizes local governments to prepare before a disaster for expeditious and orderly recovery and reconstruction afterward. It enables localities to prepare pre-disaster plans and ordinances which may include: an evaluation of the vulnerability of specific areas to damage from a potential disaster, streamlined procedures for appropriate modification of existing General Plans or zoning ordinances affecting vulnerable areas; a contingency plan of action; organization for post-disaster, short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction; and, a pre-disaster ordinance to provide adequate local authorization for post-disaster activities.

Over time, this law will prove increasingly valuable, as more experience is gained in California from earthquakes and other major disasters. At present, only a few other jurisdictions are utilizing the provisions of this Act, including the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Whittier, as well as the counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino. It is recommended that Riverside County prepare a recovery ordinance and adopt it in conjunction with this updated Safety Element.

Since 1979, Riverside County has had an ordinance (No. 538) that provides tax relief in disasters. If the damage to a property reduces its evaluation by more than \$5,000, the County Assessor will tax the property based on the lower evaluation. The County should update this ordinance to provide tax and permit fee exclusions for rehabilitation or mitigation work.