

COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

File No. 11-0496

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to the feasibility of installing an emergency tsunami siren along the coast of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. RECEIVE and FILE Motion (Rosendahl – Smith – Hahn) instructing the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report relative to the feasibility of installing an emergency tsunami siren along the coast.
2. DIRECT the Emergency Management Department (EMD) to research alternative tsunami early warning systems and identify potential sources of funding.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by EMD. Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On March 29, 2011, Council considered Motion (Rosendahl – Smith – Hahn) relative to the feasibility of installing an emergency tsunami siren along the coast. Motion states that in 2004, Council directed EMD to collaborate with City departments and other local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the City was prepared for a tsunami. A task force was established and a report drafted which included various recommendations, including: public education, development of a tsunami plan, and the placement of signage and brochures. The report emphasized the vulnerability of low lying coastal areas in the City, specifically Venice and the coastline of West Los Angeles, and to that end, tsunami warning signs have been installed throughout Venice and the coastline of West Los Angeles.

Motion movers go on to state that the events in Japan have again brought this issue to the forefront. It is believed that the City needs to continue its work to diligently inform the public about what to do in the event of an earthquake and resulting tsunami. Motion movers believe that a tsunami warning siren that sounds along the entire coastline would also be helpful in an emergency situation to alert all residents and tourists visiting the coast. Motion movers recommend that Council instruct the CAO and CLA to report on the feasibility of a tsunami siren. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held January 27, 2012, the Committee Chair and member discussed this matter with the General Manager, EMD. The EMD General Manager stated that funds are not available to install, maintain, and operate a tsunami warning siren. It was further stated, that such a system would not be adequate to alert members of the hearing impaired community of an impending disaster. Alternative technologies, such as reverse 9-1-1, are available

that can be used to issue tsunami warnings. The Committee Chair recommended that Council receive and file the accompanying Motion, and that Council also direct EMD to research alternative tsunami early warning systems and identify potential sources of funding.

Respectfully submitted,

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
KREKORIAN	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

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