

MOTION


In 2015 and 2016, the City adopted Ordinances No. 183893 (Council File No. 14-1697-S1) and No. 184081 (Council File No. 14-1697-S2), which require the retrofit of pre-1978 wood-frame soft-story buildings and non-ductile concrete buildings by the most economical and feasible methods. The goal of this mandatory retrofit program is to reduce structural deficiencies and improve the performance of these buildings during earthquakes. Without proper strengthening, these vulnerable buildings may be subjected to structural failure during and/or after an earthquake resulting in injury and death.

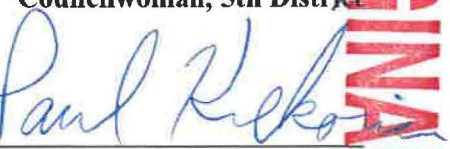
On February 6, 2023 a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck in Turkey’s southeastern province of Kahramanmaras. Within days the death toll across impacted areas of Turkey, Syria, and other adjacent countries surpassed 20,000 and is expected to continue to grow as search and rescue efforts continue. The loss of life is tragic and nearly incomprehensible; the physical damage has also been catastrophic. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has sent 81 personnel, six K9 teams, and three structural engineers to help with search and rescue and other post-earthquake efforts on the ground, along with other teams from the United States. Earthquakes of a similar magnitude are a part of the geological record in Southern California and are expected to be seen in the future according to the United States Geological Survey.

Due to the significant risk of injury or death in the event of an earthquake, the Council has a vested interest in knowing the progress of the City’s seismic retrofit programs. While the Department of Building and Safety posts regular updates on the numbers of soft-story retrofits, additional details would help guide policy makers and provide information for the public.

The most recent Department of Building and Safety progress report on the seismic retrofit programs was prepared on July 17, 2018 (Council File No. 14-1697-S4); inasmuch as nearly five years have passed since that date, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted enforcement and compliance measures, a status update is of the essence.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of Building and Safety to prepare a report within 60 days with recommendations that provides an update to its 2018 progress report, *Update on the Progress of the Mandatory Soft-Story and Non-Ductile Concrete Retrofit Programs* (Council File No. 14-1697-S4), relative to the implementation of and compliance with the City’s seismic retrofit programs.

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