

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 26, 2017

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File No: 17-0002-S89
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 17-06-0653

SUBJECT: Resolution (Ryu - Bonin) to oppose the elimination of federal funding for
California's Earthquake Early Warning System

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Ryu - Bonin) to include in the City's 2017 -
2018 Federal Legislative Program **OPPOSITION** to any legislation or administrative action that
would eliminate federal funding for California's Earthquake Early Warning System.

SUMMARY

On June 7, 2017, a Resolution (Ryu - Bonin) was introduced to oppose the elimination of federal funding for California's Earthquake Early Warning System. The Resolution states that the Trump Administration released its proposed budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2018, which includes a number of significant cuts to important programs, including this system. The Resolution states that an Earthquake Early Warning System would send emergency alerts to residents and government agencies in an area about to experience an earthquake, enabling individuals to get to a safe place prior to the event. The Resolution states that this system, which relies on federal funding, will save lives during the next major earthquake in California.

The Resolution states that the Trump Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for an Earthquake Early Warning System is a gross oversight, and would result in needless deaths in the next major earthquake. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to oppose any legislation or administrative Action that would eliminate federal funding for California's Earthquake Early Warning System.

BACKGROUND

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), in partnership with a number of State governments and universities, has been developing an Earthquake Early Warning System (EEW), known as ShakeAlert over the last few years. The system has been implemented as a pilot program in parts of California, and wider implementation is planned in upcoming years. The system detects when an earthquake has begun at the fault, and sends out emergency alerts which give the public anywhere between a few seconds to a few minutes warning that shaking is imminent, enabling actions to be taken that will save lives. The system will enable trains to stop, elevators to return to the ground level, and residents to seek shelter before the shaking starts.

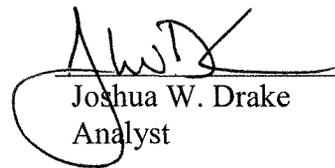
Over recent years, the state and federal governments have committed significant amounts of funding towards the full implementation of the ShakeAlert System. In Fiscal Year 2016-17, the State of California committed \$10 million to the system, and the federal government has allocated

\$23 million over the last three fiscal years. This funding is necessary for the continued implementation and maintenance of the system. However, the Trump Administration's proposal for the 2018 Federal Budget eliminates funding for the system, and ends USGS participation in its implementation. The ShakeAlert system relies on federal funding and USGS coordination between the state governments of Oregon, Washington and California. Without this commitment, the west coast will suffer needlessly in the next major earthquake.

Support for this system has been historically bipartisan, and elimination of the funding for ShakeAlert, as well as limiting the USGS's participation in the system would be shortsighted. The ShakeAlert System will save lives when fully implemented, and is a valuable tool in earthquake preparedness in a region that is prone to large magnitude earthquakes like Southern California.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Emergency Management Department



Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:jwd

Attachments: Resolution (Ryu - Bonin)

RESOLUTION POLS, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the Trump Administration released a proposed budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget includes a number of significant cuts to important programs, including the Earthquake Early Warning System planned for the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is no doubt that California will experience a major earthquake in the future; and

WHEREAS, an Earthquake Early Warning System would send emergency alerts to residents and government agencies in an area about to experience an earthquake; and

WHEREAS, this system would enable individuals to get to a safe spot, take cover and brace for an earthquake, and would save lives; and

WHEREAS, Federal funding is essential for this program, and without it, it will be difficult for the State to implement the program on its own; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's proposal to eliminate funding for an Earthquake Early Warning System is a gross oversight, and would result in needless deaths in the next major earthquake; and

WHEREAS, Congress should forcefully reject the President's proposal, and ensure that funding is available for the Earthquake Early Warning System in 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017 - 2018 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any legislation or administrative action that would eliminate federal funding for California's Earthquake Early Warning System.

PRESENTED BY: 
DAVID RYU
Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

jwd JUN 07 2017
