



**For Immediate Release**  
October 14, 2014

**Contact:** John D. Mann (916) 812-5569

## **Earthquake Early Warning System Focus of Bay Area Hearing** *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Loma Prieta & Recent Napa Quake Highlight Need for Early Warning System*

**Sacramento** – Senator Alex Padilla, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Science, Innovation and Public Policy, will hold a hearing at San Francisco City Hall that will include an update from the Director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services regarding funding and building a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system. **The hearing will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at San Francisco City Hall, Room 263.**

Attending the hearing will be representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey, Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES), California Geological Survey, Office of Statewide Health Planning, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), California High Speed Rail Authority (HSR), San Francisco General Hospital and representatives from the utility, healthcare, and water sectors.

**“In August, the Napa quake caused serious damage and hundreds of local residents had to seek treatment at area hospitals. This week, we also remember the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake in Northern California which occurred 25 years ago. These earthquakes highlight the need for California to fund and build a statewide earthquake warning system as soon as possible,”** said Senator Alex Padilla.

**“An early warning system would provide Californians critical seconds to take cover, assist loved ones or pull to the side of the road. It would also provide time to bring trains safely to a stop and power down critical infrastructure. Bottom line, the system will save lives,”** added Padilla.

**What:** Hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Committee on Science, Innovation & Public Policy--*“Realizing California’s Earthquake Early Warning System”*

**Who:** State Senator Alex Padilla (Chair) & Members of the Committee (*Full Agenda Below*)  
Mark S. Ghilarducci, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Tom Brocher, Director, Earthquake Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey  
John Parrish, State Geologist, California Geological Survey  
Roger Johnson, Deputy Director, California Energy Commission  
Paul Coleman, Deputy Director, Office of Statewide Health Planning  
Barry Anderson, Vice President of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Pacific Gas & Electric  
Hector Madariaga, Director, Emergency Services, Southern California Gas Company  
Dr. Clement Yeh, Emergency Physician, San Francisco General Hospital  
Katherine Scott, Government Affairs, California Hospital Association  
John McPartland, Director, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)  
Ian White, Emergency Management Program Manager Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**When:** **Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 9:30 a.m.**

**Where:** San Francisco City Hall, Room 263

In 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 135 by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) which went into effect on January 1st of this year. The bill requires the Office of Emergency Services to develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system to alert Californians in advance of dangerous shaking. The initial cost estimate to build and operate a statewide system for 5 years is \$80 million.

California presently has a demonstration earthquake early warning system called the [California Integrated Seismic Network \(CISN\)](#). A fully developed system, as required in Senate Bill 135 (Padilla), would process data from an array of sensors throughout the state, detect the strength and the progression of an earthquake and alert the public within seconds and provide up to 60 seconds advanced warning before potentially damaging ground shaking is felt.

The beta-system worked successfully in March, providing a 30 second warning to seismologists of a 4.7 magnitude temblor centered in the Riverside County desert. It also provided a 10 second warning prior to the August Napa quake.

Senator Padilla has been actively working to identify funding for California's earthquake early warning system in California. He organized a bi-partisan coalition of California legislators to advocate for federal funding.

**“We should leave no stone unturned in our efforts to fully fund an earthquake early warning system,”** Padilla said.

*Senator Alex Padilla, 41, graduated from MIT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and just completed serving a five year term on the MIT Board. He is Chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and represents the more than 1,100,000 residents of the 20<sup>th</sup> State Senate District in Los Angeles. For more information about Senator Padilla visit his [website](#) or follow him on [Facebook](#).*

## **Select Committee on Science, Innovation and Public Policy**

### **INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

“Realizing California’s Earthquake Early Warning System”

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Francisco City Hall Room 263

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

#### **Welcome**

- Senator Alex Padilla, Chair of the Select Committee on Science, Innovation and Public Policy

#### **I. Overview of California Earthquake Early Warning System (CEEWS)**

- John Parrish, State Geologist, *California Geological Survey*
- Tom Brocher, Director, *Earthquake Science Center U.S. Geological Survey*

#### **II. Benefits of an Earthquake Early Warning System**

##### **A. Health Sector**

- Dr. Clement Yeh, Emergency Physician, *San Francisco General Hospital*
- Paul Coleman, Deputy Director, *Office of Statewide Health Planning*
- Kathryn Scott, Government Affairs, *California Hospital Association*

- B. Gas Sector
  - Hector Madariaga, Director of Emergency Services, *Southern California Gas Company*
- C. Electricity Sector
  - Roger Johnson, Deputy Director, *California Energy Commission*
  - Barry Anderson, Vice President of Emergency Preparedness and Response, *Pacific Gas & Electric*
- D. Transportation Sector
  - John McPartland, Board Director, *Bay Area Rapid Transit*
  - *Letter from the California High Speed Rail Authority*
- E. Water Sector
  - Ian Whyte, Emergency Management Program Manager, *The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

**III. Progress Report post-SB 135**

- Mark Ghilarducci, Director, *California Office of Emergency Services*

**IV. Public Comment**