



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Office of Gerrie Schipske
Councilwoman, Fifth District
Memorandum

R-13

Date: September 2, 2008

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TR*

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Great Southern California ShakeOut

BACKGROUND

At 10 a.m. on November 13, Long Beach can join millions of Southern Californians in the ShakeOut Drill, the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history! The Great Southern California ShakeOut includes the ShakeOut Drill and other events organized to inspire southern Californians to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

An enormous earthquake is in Southern California's future, and the ShakeOut Drill is a chance to practice so residents are ready when it happens. ShakeOut is based on a potential magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault—approximately 5,000 times larger than the magnitude 5.4 earthquake that shook southern California on July 29. Dr. Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey has led a group of over 300 scientists, engineers, and others to study the likely consequences of this potential earthquake in great detail. The result is the ShakeOut Earthquake Scenario (urbanearth.usgs.gov), which is also the basis of this year's statewide emergency response exercise, Golden Guardian 2008 (www.ohs.ca.gov). The City of Long Beach is participating in the 2008 Golden Guardian statewide disaster exercise, planned concurrently with The Great Southern California ShakeOut.

The event is being organized by The Earthquake Country Alliance, a partnership of leading earthquake professionals, emergency managers, government officials, business and community leaders, and others. The group has been planning the ShakeOut since 2006. Major organizations include the USGS, Southern California Earthquake Center, California Office of Emergency Services, City of Los Angeles, Art Center College of Design, State Farm, and California Institute of Technology.

City Councils throughout Southern California are being requested to undertake a number of steps to get their cities to fully participate in this important event. A list of activities can be accessed at: <http://www.shakeout.org/localgovernments>.

Key to this effort is the passing of a resolution in support of this important event and the active encouragement our residents, businesses, schools and organizations to go on line now at <http://www.shakeout.org/> and to sign up and to learn how to participate in various ways.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
The Great Southern California ShakeOut
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District
September 2, 2008
Page 2

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully requested that the City Council request the City Attorney to draft a resolution in support of The Great Southern California ShakeOut and that the City encourage its residents, businesses, schools and organizations to sign up on line to participate in this important event so that Long Beach can improve its readiness to survive a disaster.