

# The California Earthquake Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse provides the opportunity for all agencies and researchers in the field to coordinate reconnaissance efforts, manage access to restricted areas, share findings, and make plans for teams in the field each day.

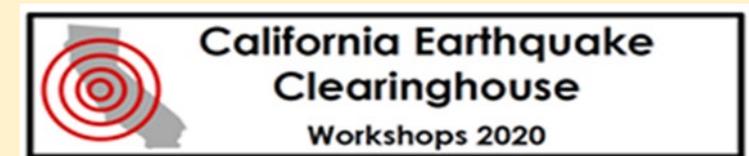


Photo: K. Thomas, CGS

**Who comes to the Clearinghouse?**

**Scientists, engineers, sociologists, and economists**

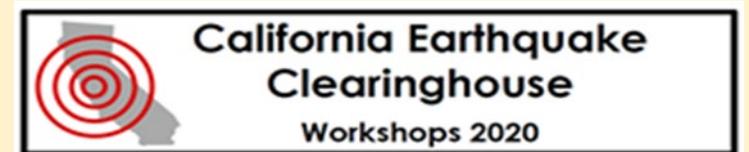
**conducting earthquake related field investigations in the affected area.**



# The California Earthquake Clearinghouse

Information is shared with the State Operations Center and outward to Regional and local emergency management.

It links the scientific and engineering communities with agencies and organizations responsible for emergency response and recovery so that their findings can inform the response and recovery efforts.



# Historical Background

The first informal California earthquake clearinghouse was convened by State Geologist Wesley Bruer the day after the M6.6 San Fernando earthquake in 1971.

More than 40 geologists, seismologists, and engineers convened at the California Geological Survey office. These included:



representatives from Caltech, USGS, EERI, Los Angeles City and County, UCSB, USC, Cal State LA, UW, CGS, other state agencies, and private consultants, who met there to exchange information.

Governor Ronald Reagan recognized the value of the earthquake clearinghouse which led to legislative action to “...to ensure that lessons from future earthquakes would be learned.”

# Authority

After a major and/or damaging earthquake in California, the California Geological Survey (CGS) is authorized to establish an earthquake clearinghouse and works in partnership with EERI, USGS, Cal OES, and CSSC

## California PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

DIVISION 2. GEOLOGY, MINES AND MINING [2001 - 2815]

CHAPTER 2. The California Geological Survey [2200 - 2211]

(2201) The survey shall carry out programs, in cooperation with federal, state, and local government agencies, that will reduce the loss of life and property and protect the environment by mitigating geologic hazards:

**Hazard assessment**, including identification and mapping of geologic hazards and estimates of their potential consequences to life, property, and the environment, and the likelihood of occurrence.

**Emergency response to geologic hazards**, including, but not limited to, those related to natural disasters, including the monitoring and assessment of anomalous geologic activity, and **the operation of a clearinghouse for post event earth science investigations.**

# Supporting agreements



**CGS and Cal OES have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) established under authority of Executive Order No. W-9-91.**



That CGS is to provide **geotechnical data and advice to the Cal OES regarding natural hazards** in support of emergency planning and information support as required during State disaster response operations.

During a natural hazards emergency event, **there is direct communication with Cal OES via the 24 hour duty officer and CalOES hazard specialists**

CGS coordinates investigations with the **USGS** under a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, USGS 1996, 2000)**



With the Clearinghouse, CGS also coordinates its emergency response with **EERI, CSSC**, other State, local, academic and private entities.



# CA Earthquake Clearinghouse Managing Partners



## The California Earthquake Clearinghouse relies on collaboration and involvement by many partners:

Applied Technology Council (ATC)  
California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)  
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)  
Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering (CUREE)  
FEMA, Region IX  
Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance Association (GEER)  
Center for Engineering Strong Motion Data (CESMD)  
NASA/Ames Research Center  
NASA Earth Science Disasters Program

Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER)  
Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC)  
Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)  
Structural Extreme Events Reconnaissance (StEER)  
Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE/ASCE)  
UC Berkeley Seismological Laboratory (UCBSL)  
UNAVCO  
Western Disaster Center (WDC)  
Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC)  
And others...

# Activation

The Clearinghouse will be put into operation after earthquakes that meet any of the following parameters:

- When an urban area is struck by a damaging earthquake that has a magnitude of 6 or above
- Upon recommendation of managing partners: CGS, USGS, EERI, SSC and Cal OES, even when the magnitude threshold is not exceeded, but damage is significant
- In a remote, less densely populated area, when an earthquake is large enough to damage structures and lifelines.

A federal disaster declaration is not necessary to activate the Clearinghouse, but the Clearinghouse will always be activated when there is a federal disaster declaration

