

## WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

USGS Award #1434-94-G2496

Program Element: IV.2

Martha Blair Tyler, Principal Investigator  
Spangle Associates, Urban Planning and Research  
3240 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028  
(415) 854-6001; FAX: (415) 854-6070; E-mail: spangle@batnet.com

Under this award, Spangle Associates designed, organized, and conducted six workshops in the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay regions on the subject of local government use of earthquake hazards information. The purpose of the workshops was to inform local government officials of new geologic and hazards maps available or in process for their areas and ways to use the maps to reduce damage to the built environment from geologic hazards.

The workshops were held at county government centers in San Mateo, Contra Costa, Sonoma, Alameda, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties. Other counties--San Francisco, Marin, Napa, Solano, and Monterey--and all the cities in the eleven counties were invited to send representatives. An invitation letter on USGS letterhead and workshop program were sent to city and county managers, planning directors, public works directors, and building officials. Each jurisdiction was asked to send a team of staff members who review development applications. Announcements were also placed in newsletters of the Association of Engineering Geologists, International Conference of Building Officials, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Planning Association, and the Association of Bay Area Governments to reach the consulting community that provides services to local governments.

The workshops, entitled "Look Before You Build," lasted 4 hours and featured a common format, but presentations were tailored to the locality. USGS scientists led off each workshop with presentations on earthquake probabilities and new work in the area. Then a representative from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) discussed shaking intensity maps available from ABAG and a representative from the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) described the state's seismic hazard mapping program. The second half of the program featured local examples of requirements to require geologic reports with development applications. Spangle Associates started with an overview of typical local requirements followed by local staff members and consultants discussing specific projects, ordinances, or issues regarding requiring, reviewing, and implementing recommendations in geology reports.

The workshops were successful. They attracted the targeted audience, received positive evaluations from participants, and stimulated many participants to ask for more--especially directed to planning commissioners, city council members, and county supervisors. About 510 invitations were mailed out and 323 people attended the six workshops, 80 percent of which were local government staff members. All but two counties and 64 of the 116 cities in the eleven counties sent representatives. Evaluation forms were received from 130 attendees and virtually all found the workshops useful, well-organized, and with clear and thorough presentations of information. Almost 90 percent of the participants thought similar workshops should be given for elected and appointed local decisionmakers. The final project report contains the details of the evaluation and recommends that USGS implement an outreach program featuring periodic workshops for local officials, particularly when new maps or reports are released.

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Six half-day workshops were held in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions for local government officials about the availability and use of geologic information. The workshops, called "Look Before You Build" had a common format, but the presentations were tailored to focus on geologic data and concerns near each workshop location. Presentations were made by USGS scientists and representatives from the Association of Bay Area Governments, California Division of Mines and Geology, and Spangle Associates. Local staff members and consultants also presented examples of local use of geologic information. Over 320 people attended the workshop, representing 9 counties, 64 cities, and several consulting firms and other government agencies. Evaluation forms completed by participants indicate that virtually all found the workshops useful and favored additional such efforts.