

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jim Holmes, Supervisor, District 3

**DATE:** March 26, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a resolution in Support of Senate Bill 135, to Create a Statewide Earthquake Early Warning System in California.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adopt a resolution in support of Senate Bill 135, to create a statewide earthquake early warning system in California.

**BACKGROUND**

The damaging effects of earthquakes are well known to Californians. Studies released by the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast (UCERF) in 2008 and by the California Institute of Technology and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology in January 2013 have concluded that significant earthquake risk exists in California.

While earthquakes cannot be prevented, seismic activity can be detected in order to provide warnings which could help save lives. Early warning systems are already in place or are being developed in Japan and other parts of the world. In California, a demonstration early warning system is operated by the California Integrated Seismic Network.

Senate Bill 135 (Padilla) would require the development of a comprehensive earthquake early warning system in California, building upon the California Integrated Seismic Network and other resources. The objective of the early warning is to rapidly detect the initiation of an earthquake, estimate the level of ground shaking to be expected, and issue a warning up to 60 seconds before significant ground shaking begins.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

Attachment: Resolution

# Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

**IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION**  
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 135 (PADILLA)  
TO CREATE AN EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING  
SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA.

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held, **March 26, 2013**, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Holmes  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
Clerk of said Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Holman

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**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Geological Survey, California is one of the most seismically active states, second only to Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, California has experienced dozens of disastrous earthquakes that have caused fatalities, serious injuries, and significant economic loss; and

**WHEREAS**, ninety percent of the world's earthquakes and over eighty percent of the world's largest earthquakes occur along the Circum-Pacific Belt, also known as the Pacific Ring of Fire. The Pacific Ring of Fire includes the very active San Andreas Fault Zone in California; and

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast (UCERF) released in 2008 predicted a 99.7 percent likelihood of a magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake in California in the next 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2013 study published by the Caltech and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology discovered that a statewide California earthquake involving both the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas may be possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Turkey, Romania, Italy, and China either have or are working on earthquake early warning systems that are capable of saving lives and helping to mitigate loss; and

**WHEREAS**, California Emergency Management Agency, Caltech, California Geological Survey, University of California at Berkeley, United States Geological Survey, and others have been conducting earthquake early warning research and development in California and together they operate the California Integrated Seismic Network, which has a demonstration earthquake early warning capability; and

**WHEREAS**, by building upon the California Integrated Seismic Network and processing data from an array of sensors throughout the state, a fully developed earthquake early warning system would effectively detect the strength and progression of earthquakes and alert the public within seconds, up to 60 seconds, before potentially damaging ground shaking is felt; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors supports Senate Bill 135 (Padilla) that would create an earthquake early warning system in California.

