
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Top 10 Action Items



Association of Bay Area
Governments
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What is Long-Term Recovery?

- Process of restoring a community to a stable and functional state
 - Process begins immediately after a disaster and can continue for years.
 - Recovery requires coordination across ALL government departments (not just OES).
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Regional Long-Term Disaster Recovery Goals

- Decrease recovery time to 3-5 years
 - Minimize displacement of residents and businesses
 - Speed economic recovery
 - Improve community resiliency and sustainability
 - Minimize community disruption
 - Serve vulnerable populations
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Purpose of This Presentation

- We surveyed cities and counties in 2008 to understand the level of recovery planning that has already taken place in the region
 - In the 90 responses we found a wide variety between jurisdictions and within a jurisdiction by type of activity
 - This presentation outlines 10 key actions that can be taken today to speed recovery of jurisdictions and the region
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Post-Disaster Financial Provisions

1. Ensure that the purchasing and contract portion of the Municipal Code allows for emergency purchases.

- Simple way to allow the city manager to quickly address urgent issues through access to funds and launch the recovery process quickly
- **49%** can make emergency purchases over \$100k

2. Designate a department to oversee FEMA reimbursement process.

- **91%** of jurisdictions have done this
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Continuity of Government Services

3. Establish back up procedures to pay employees and vendors if normal finance operations are disrupted (60% have done)
4. Have reliable backups of electronic files that are accessible from alternate sites (73% do this)
5. Plan for relocation of city-owned facilities and employees (44% have done this)



- Prioritize reconstruction and repair of city-owned facilities

Repair and Reconstruction

6. Adopt a repair and reconstruction ordinance that:

- IS NOT a disaster-time ordinance.
 - Applies to both public & private buildings
 - Must be actually used pre-event (showing enforcement of this type of provisions)
 - Maximize the money you can receive from FEMA to repair damaged local government buildings. Otherwise, FEMA will only pay to restore building to condition it was in before the earthquake.
 - Sample ordinance available from ABAG
 - Only **18%** have adopted a repair and reconstruction ordinance
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Document Pre-Existing Conditions

7. Keep clear records of condition for ALL your facilities.

- Required for FEMA reimbursement
 - Develop a process for regularly updating this information every 5 years
 - Tips
 - Compile existing documentation and inventories into a single database
 - Prioritize facilities that are most vulnerable
 - Store the data out of the region
 - Start the process by doing a camcorder walk-through of high priority facilities
 - Only **36%** of jurisdictions have done this
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Incentives for Retrofitting: *Consistent Retrofit Standards for Single-Family Homes (Plan Set A)*

8a. Ensure retrofits are done properly and consistently

- Standards simplify permitting and reduces costs
- For homes with “cripple” walls less than 4 ft tall

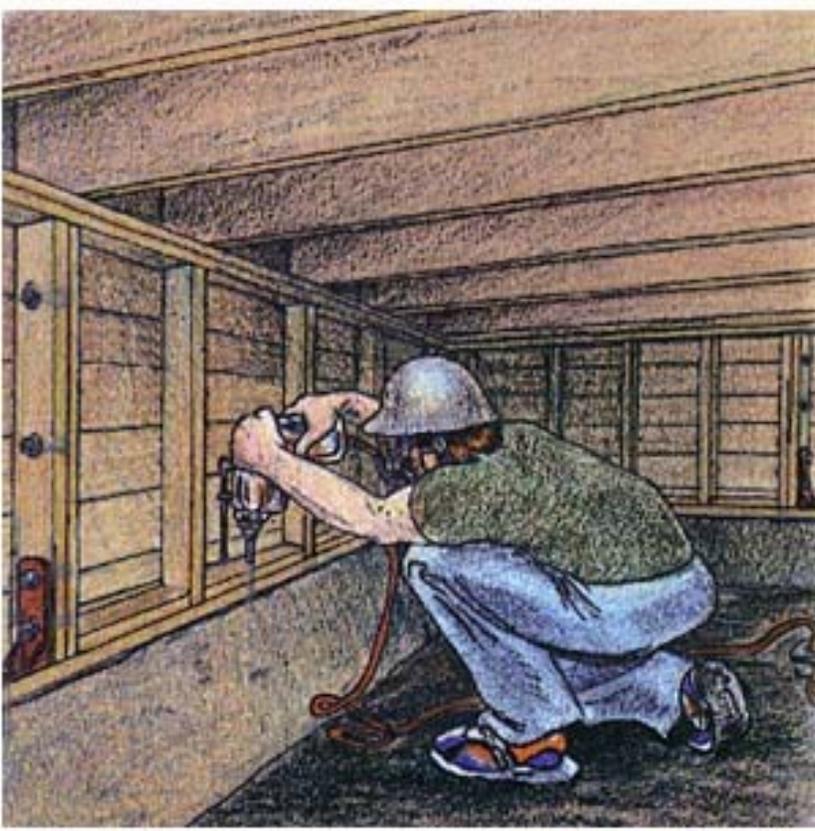
(the wood outside walls of crawl spaces or basements)

- Download plan set and sample ordinance at quake.abag.ca.gov

“making your home safer”



Incentives for Retrofitting: *Financial*



8b. Offer partial grants or low interest loans for home retrofits

- Only **12%** of homeowners are insured for earthquake losses and deductibles are high; so **only about 5%** of losses will be covered by insurance
- See quake.abag.ca.gov “housing losses”
- Only **14%** of jurisdictions are doing this

Soft-Story Housing

9. Retrofit soft-story buildings

- These are multi-family buildings with open parking or commercial on the first floor
- Over half of housing losses in the Bay Area will be in soft story buildings
- quake.abag.ca.gov “housing losses”
 - Incentive ideas
 - Retrofit standards
 - Summary of local actions



- Several cities have inventories. Some have passed ordinances requiring owners to act.
 - San Francisco
 - Oakland
 - Berkeley
 - Alameda
 - Santa Clara Co.
 - Sebastopol
 - Fremont
 - San Leandro

Downtowns and Jobs

10. Mandate the retrofit of ALL unreinforced masonry buildings in key downtown areas

- ❑ Ensures safety of occupants and pedestrians
- ❑ Preserves the character of older downtowns
- Include small and large business owners, banks, and business leaders from the beginning



40% have completed retrofits of all unreinforced masonry buildings

Make long-term recovery a high priority in your jurisdiction!

For a complete list of recommended recovery strategies, visit

quake.abag.ca.gov/recovery
