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# News Release

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## **NEW SEISMIC MAP HIGHLIGHTS STATE'S SHAKING POTENTIAL UNVEILING NEWS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, 10 A.M. IN SAN JOSE**

SACRAMENTO – A new seismic shaking map of California will be unveiled April 22 at the Disaster Resistant California Conference in San Jose. It will show the potential danger of future earthquakes based on fault lines, shaking intensity, earthquake reoccurrence intervals and soil conditions.

"The entire state is at risk for earthquake damage," said OES Director Dallas Jones. "This map highlights communities that face the greatest risk of damage. It helps emergency managers focus limited mitigation resources on those communities. It also serves as a reminder for California residents to practice earthquake preparedness."

The map --- *Earthquake Shaking Potential for California* -- is a joint product of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), California Seismic Safety Commission (SSC), the California Department of Conservation's California Geological Survey (CGS), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Using colors to indicate shaking intensity, the map shows the maximum levels of shaking that could occur from likely sources of future earthquakes throughout California. There is no community completely safe from earthquakes. Pink areas on the map are areas near major, active faults that face the potential of shaking strong enough to damage modern buildings. Dark green areas on the map are communities distant from known, active faults.

"Since we don't know whether the next earthquake will occur in the San Francisco area, or Los Angeles, or Eureka, you can think of the map as showing the places where the shaking will be most likely to occur," said Department of Conservation Director Darryl Young.

There are hundreds of known faults in California. More than 70 percent of the state's population resides within 30 miles of a fault where intense ground shaking could occur in the coming decades. California generally experiences two or three temblors a year large enough to cause moderate damage to structures, and many scientists concur that the state is overdue for a major earthquake. Three-quarters of the nation's future earthquake losses are expected to occur in California.

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Earthquake losses can run into the tens of billions of dollars. In general, the larger the magnitude and the closer the quake is to populated areas, the greater the losses. But the intensity of shaking is also affected by the whether towns and cities are built primarily on bedrock or on soft sediments. The shaking levels shown on the "Earthquake Shaking Potential for California" map include these "soil effects."

As scientists learn more about ground shaking hazards, building codes are improved to help structures better withstand future earthquakes. In general, old buildings are less earthquake-resistant than new buildings because they were built under less stringent building codes.

"Poorly built structures on poorly performing soils, perform poorly during earthquakes," said Dr. Bruce Clark, chairman of the California Seismic Safety Commission. "There is still much to be learned and many improvements to make."

This "Earthquake Shaking Potential for California" map is a representation of the strongest earthquakes that could happen over a 50 year period. It is different than the "ShakeMaps" available online, which show shaking from a single earthquake emanating from its epicenter minutes after it occurs. ShakeMaps are available at <http://www.cisn.org/eqinfo.html>.

The California Geological Survey is mapping the details of seismic hazard levels across much of the state so that the nature of the hazard in individual towns and cities is better understood. For further information, please visit the CGS Web site at [www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs).

"The USGS is glad to support efforts to bring our hazard products to the public in ways that will increase understanding of the hazards Californians face from earthquakes and the steps we can take to lessen our risk," said Dr. Mike Blanpied, Associate Chief Scientist of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Team.

The Disaster Resistant California conference is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation based at San Jose State University. Conference partners include the California Earthquake Authority and the California Seismic Safety Commission.

The Disaster Resistant California conference expands on the concepts set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Project Impact program. Like the Project Impact program, Disaster Resistant California promotes public/private partnerships in an effort to reduce the vulnerability of individual communities to natural and human-caused disasters.

It has evolved into a dynamic exploration of disaster mitigation, planning, preparedness, response and recovery. It is designed to bring together emergency management professionals, local and state government representatives and private business partners to share ideas, technology and resources for the purpose of mitigating disasters. This year's conference is April 21-23 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

*For a complete conference schedule, visit [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov), and click DRC in the right column. Registration forms are also available online. Media representatives, however, are asked to register by contacting Sheryl Tankersley of OES at (916) 845-8458.*