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## *Media Advisory*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2004

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### **Earthquake News Conference, Tech Demonstrations and Breakout Sessions Kickoff Fourth Annual Disaster Resistant California Conference, May 3-5** *Experts present real earthquake risks in California, separating fact from fiction*

SACRAMENTO – Fourth Annual Disaster Resistant California Conference, sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation, kicks off on Monday, May 3 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. The three-day conference marks the start of "Disaster Resistant California Week," proclaimed today for May 2-8 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Highlights of the conference include:

#### **Monday, May 3,**

##### **10 a.m. Earthquake News Conference: Fact vs. Fiction**

Experts will define the real earthquake risk in California and explain mitigation accomplishments.

- Henry Renteria, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Mike Reichle, Acting State Geologist, CA Geological Survey and chair, CA Earthquake Prediction Council
- William Ellsworth, Chief Scientist, Earthquake Hazards Team, US Geological Survey
- Richard McCarthy, Executive Director, Seismic Safety Commission,
- Fred Turner, Senior Structural Engineer, Seismic Safety Commission

##### **1:45 p.m. Special Keynote Address**

Dr. Amy Smithson, an expert on biological and chemical weapons proliferation, shares her insight with emergency management professionals from government and the private sector.

##### **3:30 p.m., Tech Demonstration**

Demonstration of how school officials and local law enforcement personnel utilized technology in responding to an incident involving a teenage gunman last September at a Spokane, WA., high school.

##### **3:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

Sessions focusing on the San Simeon Earthquake, hazard mapping, volunteer and community programs, business continuity challenges.

**Tuesday, May 4****10 a.m. Hazard Mitigation News Conference: Fires and Floods**

Practical methods for California residents to strengthen their families, homes, schools and workplaces against disasters. For visuals, the news conference will take place amid a variety of outdoor exhibitors including emergency vehicles and demonstrations. Sacramento Police Department helicopter patrol will conduct a flyover at 10:30 a.m. to demonstrate video communications with the department's mobile command center.

- Henry Renteria, Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Jim Wright, Deputy Director Fire Protection, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Gary Hester, Chief, Hydrology and Flood Operations Office, California Department of Water Resources

**10:30 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

Sessions focusing on mitigation efforts in Taiwan, disaster warning systems, potential solutions to the bark beetle and fire problem, un-reinforced masonry buildings.

The full conference schedule is available at [www.drc.ca.gov](http://www.drc.ca.gov).

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