

**Cynthia L. Pridmore**  
**California Geological Survey**

***California Earthquake Clearinghouse***



**March 4, 2020**  
**National Earthquake Conference**  
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# After a major and/or damaging earthquake in California the California Geological Survey (CGS)

- Is authorized to establish an earthquake clearinghouse
- Works in partnership with its co-managing partners:
  - Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)
  - United States Geological Survey (USGS)
  - California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
  - California Seismic Safety Commission (CSSC)

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**  
**DIVISION 2. GEOLOGY, MINES AND MINING [2001 - 2815]**  
**CHAPTER 2. The California Geological Survey [2200 - 2211]**

**(2201) The survey shall carry out programs, in cooperation with federal, state, and local government agencies, that will reduce the loss of life and property and protect the environment by mitigating geologic hazards:**

- Hazard assessment, including identification and mapping of geologic hazards and estimates of their potential consequences to life, property, and the environment, and the likelihood of occurrence.
- Emergency response to geologic hazards, including, but not limited to, those related to natural disasters, including the monitoring and assessment of anomalous geologic activity, and ***the operation of a clearinghouse for postevent earth science investigations.***

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=2201](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=2201)

# California Geological Survey Event Response

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CGS and Cal OES established under authority of Executive Order No. W-9-91.

- This MOA states that CGS is to provide geotechnical data and advice to the Cal OES regarding natural hazards in support of emergency planning and information support as required during State disaster response operations.

The CGS also coordinates its emergency response with other State, local, academic and private entities, and coordinates investigations with the USGS under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, USGS 1996, 2000)

During a natural hazards emergency event, there is direct communication with Cal OES via the 24 hour duty officer and CalOES hazard specialists



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Department of  
Conservation  
*California Geological Survey*

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# California Post-Earthquake Information Clearinghouse, Operation Plan (2009)

<https://californiaeqclearinghouse.org/about/>

**The Clearinghouse will be put into operation only after earthquakes that meet any of the following parameters:**

- When an urban area is struck by a damaging earthquake that has a magnitude of 6 or above
- Upon recommendation of managing partners - CGS, USGS, EERI, SSC and Cal OES, even when the above magnitude threshold is not exceeded, but damage is significant
- In a remote, less densely populated area, when an earthquake is large enough to damage structures and lifelines.

**A federal disaster declaration is not necessary to activate the Clearinghouse, but the Clearinghouse will always be activated when there is a federal disaster declaration**

- **The California Earthquake Clearinghouse was established by statute in 1972 to facilitate the collection, interpretation, and dissemination of critical geologic and engineering observations following a significant earthquake event.**
- **Those who participate when the Clearinghouse is activated, are not acting as emergency responders, they are there voluntarily to collect critical and potentially perishable information that is key to understanding and learning from the scientific and engineering effects of the earthquake.**
- **This information is critical for the improvement of building codes and engineering/scientific advances.**
- **This information provides disaster response managers and the scientific and engineering communities with prompt information on ground failures, structural damage, and other impacts from major earthquakes.**
- **Assists with coordination volunteers so that they do not impede emergency response.**
- **Can coordinate access to restricted areas.**