Orange Empire Chapter

Meeting Minutes April 16, 2009
Rio Hondo Event Center
10627 Old River School Road
Downey, CA 90241

Joint LA Basin Chapter, Ventura Chapter and Orange Empire Chapter Meeting

Call to order: Roy Itani, LA Basin Chapter President called the meeting to order at 11:56 a.m. and proceeded to express his gratitude in thanking Linda Haines, City of Downey, for her assistance in coordinating the facility for the Tri-Chapter Meeting. Roy introduced the LA Basin Chapter board members that were present.

Roy turned the podium over to Hadi Tabatabaee, Orange Empire Chapter President, to introduce the OEC board members present Secretary Tony Weimholt, Treasurer Gabriel Linares, and Vice-President David Khorram.

Roy Itani also introduced Ali Hamidzadeh, Ventura Chapter Secretary who indicated that he was the only member of the Ventura Chapter Board that was able to attend the meeting.

Self-introductions were completed and Roy Itani initiated the LA Basin chapter business.

LA Basin invited the Orange Empire Chapter members to attend the upcoming LA Basin Chapter picnic to be held May 16, 2009.

Roy Itani turned the podium over to Hadi Tabatabaee, Orange Empire Chapter President to conduct the OEC business.

I CHAPTER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes - A motion was made and passed to approve the March 19, 2009 meeting minutes.

B. Treasurer's Report: Gabriel Linares announced the balance for the Checking at $13,215.20, and the Savings balance of $15,125.93.

C. Unfinished Business – In the interest of expediting the meeting to get to the program the Unfinished Business portion of the meeting was bypassed.

D. New Business – In the interest of expediting the meeting to get to the program the New Business portion of the meeting was bypassed.

II COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Education Committee –Gabriel Linares announced that Dan Kennedy, Education Chair was not present, but wanted to remind member to visit the OEC website to review the upcoming events. Hadi clarified that the two programs were the Plumbing & Mechanical code seminars on May 12, 2009 by Fady Mattar, and invited members of both chapters to attend. Hadi also advised that Dan was working of putting together a Green Building seminar.

B. Green Building Committee – Roy Fewell announced that Paul Melby who was also on the Education Committee was working with the Education Chairperson to put together a Green Building Seminar, and were coordinating the training with CALBO.

C. Public Relations and Membership Committee – Soroosh Rahbari advised that there was nothing currently to report.

D. CALBO ABM Committee – David Khorram advised that the 2010 ABM committee would be meeting immediately following the chapter lunch program and invited the interested LA Basin Chapter members to join the meeting.

E. Code Committee – No Report

F. Quality Assurance Committee – No Report

III ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. CALBO – Jay Elbettar, Past-President of CALBO reminded the members that the annual Legislative day was April 28th, and urged all members to participate. Jay mentioned that the survey was being taken from the Chapters to form a position with a decision in adopting the IRC. He stated that he personally supported HCD in adopting the building provisions of the IRC only and staying with the UMC & UPC provisions. The potential impacts for training issues were significant since commercial applications would follow the UMC & UPC and the IRC varies vastly from the plumbing and mechanical codes. Jay also advised that IAPMO has stated their support of the use of the UMC & UPC and has developed a residential abbreviated version of their code. Jay urged everyone to complete the survey.

Isam Hasenin advised the membership that while the Building Standards Commission may support the adoption of the complete IRC, by law the BSC cannot take action until codes and/or amendments are proposed from an agency for adoption. Isam stated that there was a letter from a

senator or an assembly member indicating support of the UPC & UMC and that there was an underlying threat that if the Building Standards Commission did not go along, that the codes could be determined through the legislative process and bypass the BSC process. With that, the feeling was that it would not make much sense for the BSC to advocate for the complete adoption of the IRC and that they should accept what they can get for now and wait for another day. Isam also stated that the SEA, AIA and BIA have all taken the position to support just the building components of the IRC, and that CALBO was basically on its own in advocating the complete adoption of the IRC.

Isam urged everyone to participate in the code development process, attend the Building Standards Commission hearings and voice an opinion.

Jay Elbettar stated that Isam and Jim Barthman were working together on this issue and we were fortunate to have Isam on the Building Standards Commission.

Jon Traw commented that the State Fire Marshal was having a stakeholder meeting on May 23, 2009 in Sacramento relative to the residential code and requested that CALBO ask the State Fire Marshal to hold stakeholder meetings on the residential code in Southern California.

Fady Mattar commented that the LA Basin Chapter had asked him to look into the IRC code adoption issue and that he supported the HCD position rather than the CALBO position due to the operational problems and the significant differences between the codes.

B. ICC – John Nosse President of ICC Evaluation Services announced his retirement scheduled for January 2010, and that Mark Johnson would be taking over as head of the ICC ES. Mark acknowledged John for the great leadership he had provided to ICC ES and for setting the industry standard for evaluation services. Mark stated that his goal was to continue the outstanding services established by John Nosse and build on the value of the ICC ES reports, to try to make it easier to link the code to the ES Reports and add value to the code officials.

Mark stated that the 2009 ICC Codes were in stock and that they were in the process of shipping the approximate 12,000 units on back orders, and that ICC's first quarter of 2009 has been a real turn around from the fourth quarter of 2008.

C. SEAOC - Hadi Tabatabaee introduced Mike Cochran President-Elect of SEAOC. Mike announced that SEAOC had conducted a joint meeting with a few building officials last week and that he felt there had been a lack of communication between the two groups, Mike stated that SEAOC

wanted to get the committees working together on code development on structural provisions and also developing publications. He discussed the strategy of development of publications in three parts. Structural provisions developed by structural engineers, provisions developed by plan checkers and provisions developed by inspectors. The first publication would focus on tilt-up structures and the second publication would focus on single and multi-family residential structures.

IV GOOD OF THE ORDER

A. Scott Fazekas announced that he had prepared a document on the Federal pre-emption of local authority by the U.S. Postal Service for either Federally owned or leased property. The reference documents used to formulate this interpretation are identified within the policy memo and that copies were available at the registration table. One of the comments was that as a developer or property owner may want to have the local jurisdiction involved in the process so that if the Post Office leaves you will not be stuck with a building that does not comply with building code regulations.

B. Paul Armstrong advised that the Solar Electric and Solar Heating surveys from southern California conducted by the Sierra Club were being completed, the Sierra Club are working up in northern California in an effort to establish consistent and reasonable fees for solar energy installations and the information will soon be available for local jurisdictions. The Sierra Club may be looking to meet with the southern California chapters and/or the Green Building Committees.

C. Jon Traw advised that there was a stakeholder meeting for 7A requirements (Urban Wildlife Interface) in Glendale and offered that anyone interested could contact him after the meeting for additional information. They are considering exterior vents including possibly not allowing vents and may be looking at covering them up as the only solution.

Roy Itani stated that Stuart Tom was appointed to that committee by the State Fire Marshal and could answer questions if the members had comments or concerns they could e-mail Stuart. Hadi added that if the members e-mail Stuart he could take their comments to the meeting.

V PROGRAM

Roy Itani introduced Dr. Lucy Jones a seismologist for US Geolological Survey and Visiting Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech since 1983 and the Chief Scientist for the Multi-Hazards Initiative in Southern California

Dr. Jones informed the members that the Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project was developed to improve community resiliency to natural disasters. Southern California was selected since we have six of the seven natural disasters: including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, wildfires, floods and coastal erosion. We are only missing volcanoes. Scientists from all of the natural hazards disciplines were brought together and started off with stakeholder workshops to set research priorities.

The first project started with a scenario for a large earthquake using Southern California as a laboratory. The project included information from over 500 scientists. The first scenario was “The Big Shakeout” completed last year, and they are now working on a winter storm and flood scenario.

The earthquake scenario was developed to evaluate social and economic impacts of a major earthquake, and plan for emergency response. The purpose of the study and scenario was to educate people of the consequences of the choices they make every day and to foster change. The scenario was developed with a very large team of over 50 organizations contributing time and money and 300 people contributing to some parts of the report and it was put together as a narrative of what the earthquake would be like.

The first step was how to do the earth science: specify the fault being discussed and what slip was going to happen, calculate the shaking, predict engineering parameters, and estimate secondary effects.

Landslides and liquefaction are two major effects of the slip and the shaking, but they included dam failures that lead to flooding, fires and the other hazards.

The southern most part of the San Andreas Fault is the most likely source of a major earthquake, and is estimated to have about a 60% chance over about 30 years to have a major event. The 30 years an arbitrary timeline chosen by the office of emergency services as the length of the average mortgage. The San Andreas Fault is the most likely source of a major event in the United States. The average on this portion of the San Andreas Fault is about 150 years between major earthquakes. From 800 AD – 1700 AD there were about six events, which is about every 150 years. The last earthquake was in 1680 so it has been 330 years on a part of the fault that averages about 150 years between events.

The fault surrounds Southern California and cuts off many of our lifelines into the area, and creates a very predictable consequence.

What makes a big earthquake is the length of the fault and the slip that occurs. That is what determines the size of the event. A mile long slip is about a magnitude 5 earthquake. The two largest earthquakes recorded on the San Andreas Fault were in 1857 in southern California, and in 1906 in San Francisco. The length of the movement for each of these events was about 250 miles. The predictable impacts are that the 15 and the 10 Freeways will be disrupted. Rail lines are along both the 15 and 10 corridors will be broken by this earthquake and impassable for a minimum of two weeks. There are also three major pipelines in these transportation corridors. Two that carry gasoline and one that carries natural gas all under high pressure and all that do not have any mitigating structures at this point. The projects pipeline expert predicts an explosion if these lines rupture mixing pressurized gasoline with natural gas. The resulting wildfire will prevent repair of the damage to any of the pipelines or transportation corridors until the fire is contained. Resources will be strained to failure point.

Four different teams each created an independent simulation of what the earthquake would be like. The independent calculations all proved similar results. Dr. Jones announced that there are 12 different views of the Big Shakeout available online.

In comparing the Big Shakeout to the Northridge Earthquake:

- Northridge is about 2% or 150th of the size of the energy release predicted from the Big Shakeout
- About ½ a million people were subjected to the effects of the earthquake and estimate about 10 million from the Big Shakeout
- The length of the fault is longer (Northridge was 15 KM the Big Shakeout – 300 KM)
- The duration is longer (Northridge was 7 seconds the Big Shakeout – 100 seconds)
- Wavelengths are also longer.

1857 was the last big earthquake in Southern California. Los Angeles had about 4 thousand residents. The fastest growing areas are on the San Andreas Fault. The study estimates that approximately 300,000 buildings will suffer moderate damage (about 1 in 16) with 213 billion dollars in losses. 255,000 persons (1 in 60) will be displaced, needing temporary housing. 53,000 people will have injuries needing emergency room care far exceeding the capacity of our emergency care facilities. There will be about 1,800 deaths although number estimates are difficult, 10% are due to collapsed buildings. Several thousand people will need specialized care.

Approximately 300 structures will suffer complete collapse. Mostly URM buildings and Non-ductile concrete structures (10% collapse) 1/3 of the steel frame buildings may suffer damage.

Power will be lost to the Los Angeles area about 30 seconds into the earthquake. Electrical and gas outages with about 90% restored in a few days.

All of the water brought into southern California crosses the San Andreas Fault to get here. The upside is that there is approximately 6 months of storage in the underground aquifers, but the distribution system will have damage. Water sources could be out for a minimum of 6 months creating the biggest economic impact in this scenario. Additionally, the phone services will be overwhelmed. Services will be out the first day, but most services may be restored within 2 weeks.

No structural collapse of highway bridges are anticipated due to Cal Trans upgrades, but local transportation services will be affected with smaller bridge and roadway failures. Transportation services will also be affected by debris from collapsed structures, fires, structures, landslides and signal malfunctions.

60% of fires will be caused by electrical problems and about 25% from gas leaks. They estimate over 1600 fires, with 1200 fires exceeding first engine abilities. Mutual aid will need to come in from northern California and Arizona and will need to cross the San Andreas Fault. The result will be approximately 200 million square feet of burnt property. These predictions do not account for Santa Ana wind conditions.

Economic losses to the region have a lot more to do with the recovery processes then the damage suffered from the event itself. What this means to southern California depends on how well we handle it and what shape we are in before the event. Damage to structures and contents will be about equal to business interruption costs. Fire is the biggest source of damage to structures and contents, and business interruption costs are dominated by lack of water.

The damage could be much worse, but with the strong building codes and enforcement of those codes we have a good built environment. There have been significant mitigation efforts to upgrade structures and bridges. Planning and legislation increase awareness and preparedness. The event could also be much worse; the scenario does not take into consideration, the probability of aftershocks. A Northridge event as an after shock is a very strong probability, and there will likely be aftershocks in Sierra Madre.

Additional resources: urbanearth.usgs.gov

Dr. Jones concluded with the statement “the bottom line is: What we do now, before the earthquake will determine what our life is like after the earthquake, and we all have our own choices to make”.

Roy Itani thanked Dr. Jones on behalf of the Chapters and gave her an LA Basin Chapter portfolio.

Ali Hamidzadeh announced that the Ventura Chapter SAP training was ongoing with the one more being held April 23, 2009 and that future seminars will include a Green Building, Energy and Accessibility and will send notice out to the local chapters. The Ventura Chapter has initiated an outreach program to schools and working with Home Depot and Lowe’s to provide outreach to homeowners and builders.

Hadi Tabatabaee and Gabriel Linares announced the raffle winners: Mechanical & Plumbing Seminar went to Linda Haines, City of Downey and the Mechanical and Plumbing Code Update books went to Nicolle Stormon, JAS.

Roy Itani advised that John LaTorra was coming to the next meeting on May 14, 2009 to discuss the changes to the code development process and would be another joint meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Tony Weimholt
Chapter Secretary