

January 29, 2016

To: Jacqueline R. Meszaros, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Natural Hazards Resilience
Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jack:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to meet you and the OSTP team at the White House earthquake resilience event on February 2, 2016.

The Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW) has been leading public-private partnership initiatives to improve education, safety, and solutions regarding the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami for over 15 years. We are a nonprofit coalition of business representatives, emergency managers, scientists, government officials and civic leaders who collaborate to improve seismic resilience and sector interdependency throughout the entire western region of Washington, Oregon, N. California and British Columbia, Canada.

Since CREW's formation in 1995, we have brought public awareness to serious survivability issues in coastal communities, including convening, advancing and supporting development of tsunami vertical evacuation structures. Similarly, we have emphasized the necessity of critical infrastructure services including water, medical services, electricity and transportation throughout the Pacific Northwest (PNW).

CREW creates partnerships at all levels, is an aggregator of disparate information sources, and facilitates the making of informed decisions. CREW's new commitments to resilience include:

- Launch a new initiative to identify effective methods of risk communication after a disaster between agencies, stakeholders, and with the public in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Western Washington University Center for Resilience. A Cascadia event would require rapid, clear, and coordinated communication of potentially enhanced likelihood, or 'forewarning', of a damaging earthquake to include Earthquake Early Warning. CREW will develop an effective earthquake risk communication and coordination plan tailored to the PNW's specific resources, needs and constraints. The purpose is to alleviate circumstances of contradictory public safety messages originating from the variety of scientific and emergency management stakeholder organizations at the federal, state and provincial levels. Lessons learned developing this plan can be used as a template for other regions
- Facilitate the development of resilience plans, such as the Oregon and Washington Resilience Plans, ensuring that existing and future policies be streamlined into smart actions to best improve public safety and speed recovery
- Expand public education and outreach using CREW's credible earthquake scenarios, such as our Magnitude 9.0 Cascadia scenario which has influenced many public and private organizations and is

currently the basis for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) upcoming 2016 "Cascadia Rising" exercise. For example, CREW will conduct public education around the FEMA exercise to clarify the realities of a Cascadia earthquake and how communities can reduce their risks

Firstly, CREW strongly fully supports the development of earthquake early warning systems with USGS, academics, lifeline system operators, private industry, and government. Secondly, CREW supports higher performance standards for all new buildings and certain existing critical buildings that can increase losses to lives and property, as well as extend community recovery. And lastly, and most importantly, CREW advocates a higher level of investment to improve the reliability of infrastructure services, such as water and medical services, to protect our citizens and the communities in which we live.

We look forward to talking with your further and working with you towards improved earthquake resilience.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Inés Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Inés Pearce
President, Board of Directors