

# memorandum

Dear Owner:

We would like to thank all of you who participated in our two recent public meetings. Almost 200 people attended the meetings to express their opinions and viewpoints. As you know, this was an effort to compile a list of questions and concerns so that if an ordinance for seismic risk reduction is adopted, we can be assured that we have either addressed or mitigated any potential problems.

We want to emphasize again that we are in the early stages of this process and that no ordinance has yet been written. To clarify the procedures for adoption, once we are satisfied that we have thoroughly examined all the questions that were put before us through these meetings or any future meetings, we will then prepare a draft ordinance. The next step will be to schedule additional public meetings to discuss the details of the program. This will include many of the details which some of you requested during our meetings, but which have not yet been addressed at this stage in the process. The ordinance is then revised utilizing input from these public meetings and a public hearing is scheduled with the Board of Building and Fire Code Appeals. The Board reviews all proposed ordinances prior to presentation to the City Council. You will also be notified, by letter, of any Board hearings. After public input, any recommendations by the Board are incorporated into the ordinance. Finally, there is a public hearing before the City Council. You will also be notified of any scheduled Council dates.

This is a lengthy process. We want to again emphasize that we are still very early in the process and we have no intention of proceeding with the next step until we are fully satisfied that any identified potential problems have been addressed. To this end, we have been speaking with members of the Structural Engineers Association, the Seismic Safety Commission and reviewing similar ordinances adopted by other cities.

As we work to prepare responses to your questions, we will be compiling additional information that we will make available to you. This is in response to a comment received at our last meeting when one gentleman suggested an 'Information Ordinance' rather than an actual retrofit ordinance. We thought this was a good idea, and while we will not be adopting this information as an ordinance, our next phase in this process, prior to future meetings, will be strictly informative. We hope that it will help clarify some of the concerns of property owners.

Sincerely,  
John Cheng  
Asst. Community Development Director/ Building Official