

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 14-15, 2019

From: SUSAN BRANSEN, Executive Director

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Subject: California's Earthquake Early Warning System

Summary:

Representatives from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services will provide an overview of the California Earthquake Early Warning System.

Background:

With assistance from the United States Geological Survey, Caltech, University of California Berkeley, and the California Geological Survey, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services is leading an effort to develop, fund, manage, and operate the California Earthquake Early Warning System.

The system has been in development over the last six years and is composed of a collection of seismic monitoring sensors strategically located throughout the state. The system is designed to detect the initial energy emitted from the hypocenter of an earthquake which is then translated into an alert that is sent out prior to a severe shaking event. This alert is called a "ShakeAlert". Seconds to tens of seconds of alert can provide opportunity to take life-saving actions such as drop, cover, and hold-on.

The time that individuals or businesses receive a ShakeAlert following an earthquake will vary depending on the distance they are from the epicenter of the seismic event. A public roll out of the system is expected by October 2019.