



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE

The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC), on behalf of its 3,500 members involved in the practice of structural engineering in California, is pleased to collaborate with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) on the emerging topic of functional recovery as it relates to how buildings could be designed and retrofitted.

SEAOC supports the evolution of our building codes and standards to consider performance in terms of acceptable recovery time, in addition to the current safety-based objective. Aligned with this position, SEAOC is sponsoring California Assembly Bill 393 (Nazarian) which would form a statewide working group with broad industry representation to initiate discussion on how a functional recovery standard could better protect Californians, our economy, and our communities.

On July 24, 2019, EERI published a white paper titled “Functional Recovery: A Conceptual Framework.” SEAOC’s Functional Recovery Working Group reviewed and contributed to this white paper prior to its public release. SEAOC is aligned with the conceptual framework presented in the EERI white paper, particularly relating the design and retrofit of buildings, and the four issue areas that can be used to further develop the concept of functional recovery: Definitional, Policy, Technical, and Implementation. SEAOC anticipates continued collaboration with EERI on further development of this white paper. SEAOC is also committed to developing public policy and technical recommendations regarding functional recovery and will collaborate with EERI on those efforts.

The white paper will soon be available on the EERI website and will be shared with other groups working on functional recovery topics, both within California and at the national level (for example, the FEMA-NIST Committee mandated by the latest NEHRP Reauthorization). SEAOC members can send comments about the white paper to Ryan Kersting (rkersting@buehlerengineering.com), SEAOC Functional Recovery Working Group Chair.

Any general questions or requests for additional information can be addressed to Don Schinske (dschinske@seaoc.org), SEAOC Executive Director.