

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION No. 81179 C.M.S.**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
2009 MAR 20 PM 4:46

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS JEAN QUAN AND NANCY NADEL**



**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND SPONSOR SB1508 (CORBETT)  
RELATED TO SEISMIC SAFETY STANDARDS; CRIPPLE WALLS**

**WHEREAS**, seismic experts predict that Oakland would lose 1/3 of its housing in the event of a major Bay Area earthquake with significant loss of life and economic devastation to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the seismic retrofitting Oakland's older homes could significantly reduce the loss of life and loss of housing in such an event; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland has enacted seismic strengthening standards to its Municipal Code as part of the recently approved Voluntary Seismic Strengthening Program, and

**WHEREAS**, because these standards only apply to a limited type of residential structures, there is a pressing need to develop additional seismic retrofit standards for other types of structures with cripple walls as quickly as possible—before a major earthquake in the Bay Area occurs, and

**WHEREAS**, it would be most cost effective, efficient and practical if these standards were developed on a regional or statewide basis, rather than by Oakland alone, and

**WHEREAS**, existing law requires the State Architect, in consultation with designated entities, to develop seismic retrofit guidelines and standards for buildings, as specified, with concrete or reinforced masonry column or wall construction yet does not address standards for seismically retrofitting houses with cripple walls, which comprise a significant portion of Oakland's older residential structures; and

**WHEREAS**, under existing law, the California Earthquake Authority is required to establish an earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to provide funding for homeowners to retrofit their residents to protect against earthquake damage, but has not done so to date because of liability concerns related to their status as a quasi-governmental entity; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1508 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, which does not have the same liability issues, to develop guidelines and standards for seismic repairs of cripple walls of residential buildings and publishing a commentary explaining these guidelines and standards; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1508 would require the California Building Standards Commission to adopt, approve, codify and publish the guidelines and standards in the California Building Standards Code, and to submit them to the International Code Council; and

ITEM NO  
DATE:

**WHEREAS**, SB 1508 would also require the Contractors' State License Board to adopt a training and testing program for a specialty license classification for the seismic retrofit of cripple walls, according to these standards; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1508 would appropriate an as yet unspecified amount from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purpose of developing the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** the Oakland City Council supports and is a sponsor of SB 1508 (Corbett); and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the City Administrator and the City's state lobbyist are directed to advocate for the City's position on SB 1508 to the State Legislature.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, APR 1 2008, 20    


**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, REID, QUAN, KERNIGHAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE — 8

NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

ATTEST.   
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California