

Experts Head West to Update Seismic Building Codes

In the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge, downtown San Francisco served as the venue for academics, architects, building code professionals, engineers, and geophysicists who gathered to discuss seismic updates to the latest [International Code Council](#) model codes. Like all codes, seismic provisions must be updated continuously to stay current with the latest advancements in science and engineering. The ever-present threat of earthquake activity throughout California and many other regions across the United States makes this work a top priority.

Meeting participants discussed structural safety, plumbing and electrical systems, as well as building components during their review. The group began the process to determine which elements of the code will require updating during the upcoming code cycle. As code development process requires more than just one meeting, this was the first step to identify seismic-related adoptions that may be included in the revision process.

In addition to the primary focus on building codes, the group discussed many other topics related to referenced standards in the code. The overarching goal is to address not just how a structure is built, but which materials are used, and how they are tested to ensure performance and durability.

Mike Mahoney of [FEMA](#) and Jon Heintz of [ATC](#) led the daylong discussion. Mike Rimoldi attended as a participant. The meeting was the first of a series that will continue throughout the code development cycle.