2019 NEHRP Reauthorization: Observations and Next Steps for EERI

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NEHRP Milestones:

- Earthquake Hazard Reduction Act of 1977
  Public Law 95-124 42
  - USGS and NSF original funded agencies, 8 other agencies mentioned
    - Earthquake Prediction
    - Public Education
    - Design and Construction Techniques and Model Codes
    - Research
  - Title 42 U.S.Code. 7701 et.seq.

Palmdale Bulge 1975
NEHRP Milestones:

- Reauthorized 11 times through 2004

1980 to 2000 NEHRP Reauthorizations
- FEMA and NIST (NBS) added as program agencies and FEMA designated as the Lead Agency in 1980
- Related hearings in both houses called for change and more collaboration
- Significant changes followed the 1989 and 1994 Earthquakes
  - Clarified objectives
  - Eliminated emphasis on prediction
  - Clarified agency roles
  - Required regulations for new and existing federal buildings
- Renewed the annual funding authorizations

1989 Loma Prieta Soft story
NEHRP Milestones

- 2004 Reauthorization brought significant change
  - House Science Committee interested in change
  - ASCE Government Affairs interest in Wind and Earthquake
  - ASCE, NAE, EERI 25 Anniversary Commemoration
  - Hearings that pointed to the issues and solutions
  - EERI’s Securing Society Report
  - ASCE/EERI NEHRP Coalition common voice
  - Results HR 2608 108TH Congress
    - NIST as the new lead agency
    - Created an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for coordination and oversight
    - Created an Advisory Committee for Stakeholder input
    - Added new programs - NEES, ANSS, and PBE development
NEHRP Milestones

- 2005-2016 - No reauthorization enacted by the 109th – 114th Congresses
  - Few Congressional Champions, deadlock
  - Wars and the Great Recession
  - Changes in Appropriation Procedures
  - Wind and Hurricane related disasters
  - 2006 attempt stalled due to multiple technical voices

- 2017-2018 – Reauthorization by the 115th Congress
  - Initiated, developed and introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein
  - Researched and written by her staff over a year long process
  - Worked with SSA, ASCE, EERI, Home Builders, AIA, etal, the NEHRP Agencies and potential Co-Cosponsors
EERI’s Contribution

- Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction
  - Direct and public voice to the Executive Branch about the program
    - Assess Trends and developments
    - Assess effectiveness
    - Assess need to revisions
    - Assess management, coordination, implementation, and management
    - Report findings to the Director of NIST annually
  - Multiple EERI members serve multiple year terms
  - Chaired by EERI Presidents Chris Poland, Laurie Johnson and Glenn Rix
  - Reports and Meeting Minutes available at NEHRP.gov

ACEHR -- March 2016
EERI’s Contributions

- Collaboration with Senator Feinstein
  - Provided resources, input and initial language
    - 2017 Annual Meeting Sessions
    - EERI Public Policy on NEHRP
    - ACEHR Recommendations
  - Consulted on changes needed
  - Solicited support from related organizations
  - Provide letters of support to committee members
  - **Gained** a revitalized and modernized Program to include Community Resilience, recognition of the needed appropriation levels, and a required review of the programs effectiveness and use
  - **Lost** the development of functional recovery standards that support Community Resilience and proper Appropriation levels.
EERI’s Contributions

- **Collaboration with the House Science, Space and Technology Committee**
  - Provided background and support for the Senate bill
  - Provided testimony at a House sponsored Regional Hearing
  - Reviewed and corrected House SST suggested changes to the Senate bill
  - Provided letters of support to key committee members

- **Observed the final process**
  - Negotiation between House and Senate done by committee staff prior to floor vote.
  - Benefitted from the congressional “hot-lining” practice
  - Temporarily delayed by one committee because of some apparent election politics
  - Passes both houses by unanimous consent because of no committee opposition
  - Accepted by the President
Observations and Next Steps for EERI

- EERI’s most influential role is during a bill’s development
  - Opportunity lobbying initiates action
  - Deliver reports and consensus based documents that justify change
  - Active participation in the rapid fire development and negotiation process

- Letter writing and office visits create attention and validate need
  - Focus on assigned committee decision makers
  - Support the consensus position
  - Members only pay attention to their constituents

- Next Steps
  - Work with ACEHR – provide public testimony
  - Participate in new studies and reports
  - Lobby Appropriations subcommittees NOW for funding needed to implement
  - Prepare for and lobby the 117th Congress for the next reauthorization