

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 46**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Karnette**

February 22, 2006

---

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 46—Relative to earthquake response plans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 46, as introduced, Karnette. Earthquake response plans.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to provide the Legislature and California's Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States with a copy of the California earthquake emergency response plans currently in effect at the federal level, and if such a plan does not exist, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency be requested to explain why such a plan does not exist.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In September 2005, United States Senator  
2 Barbara Boxer requested in writing that the federal government  
3 provide a copy of its "disaster recovery plan to respond to a  
4 major earthquake in California"; and

5 WHEREAS, The request was made to ensure that California's  
6 lawmakers and California emergency response organizations can  
7 evaluate the strength and weaknesses of the plan and make  
8 recommendations for additional considerations, including  
9 intergovernmental cooperation in responding to a natural  
10 disaster; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal government had not provided the  
12 requested information by October 18, 2005, prompting a formal

1 joint request by Senator Boxer and United States Senator Dianne  
2 Feinstein to reiterate the need to release the federal earthquake  
3 disaster response plan for California, in the interest of  
4 establishing safe and effective emergency management  
5 coordination between all levels of government; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation has estimated  
7 that the average annualized cost of structural and nonstructural  
8 building damage caused by earthquakes could total \$2.2 billion  
9 in the coming decades, and has reported that major earthquakes  
10 similar in strength to the Loma Prieta earthquake and the  
11 Northridge earthquake could each result in damages of  
12 approximately \$50 billion or more; and

13 WHEREAS, Earthquake response plans are essential to avoid  
14 the danger that catastrophes present to human life, health, and  
15 basic public services and infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal government has still not provided its  
17 earthquake response plan, as requested, despite the fact that  
18 catastrophic emergency responses by the federal government in  
19 2005 have been accompanied by coordination problems with  
20 state and local governments; and

21 WHEREAS, As evidenced by October 2005 congressional  
22 testimony by California officials, it is already known that federal  
23 emergency response plans for California are inadequate due to  
24 insufficient communications bandwidth to accommodate the  
25 great spike in telecommunications that accompanies every major  
26 natural disaster; and

27 WHEREAS, By providing a copy of the federal earthquake  
28 response plan to California, other potential emergency  
29 management insufficiencies, other than communications, can be  
30 identified and addressed; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
32 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
33 memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to  
34 provide the Legislature and California's Senators and  
35 Representatives in the Congress of the United States with a copy  
36 of the California earthquake emergency response plans, in detail,  
37 currently in effect at the federal level; and be it further

38 *Resolved,* That, if such a plan does not exist, the Federal  
39 Emergency Management Agency be requested to explain why  
40 such a plan does not exist; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
2 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of  
3 the United States, to the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to  
5 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress  
6 of the United States.

O