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## **"The Science and Innovation of Resilience" To Be Topic of Resilience Advantage Webinar**

*Structural Engineers and Architects Use Science and Innovation  
to Make Existing and Future Buildings More Resilient*

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – Structural engineers and innovative designers will explore how science and innovation are making new and existing buildings more earthquake resilient in California and around the globe.

Lessons from science and innovation will be examined during "*The Resilience Advantage*," webinar on Wednesday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People can register here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-science-and-innovation-of-resilience-tickets-132477442597>

"Advances in our understanding of seismic issues are proving very beneficial in making buildings, both those currently on the ground and those on the drawing boards, better able to withstand and recover from what can be devastating impacts during major earthquakes," says Evan Reis, executive director of the non-profit U.S. Resiliency Council, who serves as host for the program.

An expert panel will examine how specific techniques to making buildings more resilient benefits everyone by preserving jobs, housing, vital services and local economies. Examples will be discussed of how science and innovation are working together to prepare buildings and communities to withstand surprise shocks, avoid serious damage and recover more quickly from California's greatest natural hazard – earthquakes.

Panel members are: Lakisha Wood, President & CEO of the National Institute of Building Sciences; and Christine Goulet, Executive Director for Applied Science at the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC).



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A 20-minute video shown as part of the webinar will include interviews with experts addressing the intersection of science and innovation in mitigating seismic threats. Accomplishments in dealing with the challenges presented by natural hazards will be discussed.

Interviews in the video will include: Dr. Tara Hutchinson, Professor of Structural Engineering, University of California San Diego; Dr. Curt Haselton, Professor of Civil Engineering, California State University Chico, Co-founder and president of HB-Risk; Alan Klembczyk, President, Taylor Devices; Kyle Wilson, South Pacific Regional Engineer, SidePlate Systems, Inc.; Blake Roskelley, SE, Senior Structural Engineer, Clark Pacific Builders.

Other interviews featured are: Brandt Saxey, S.E., LEED A.P., Vice President Preconstruction Sales & Technical Director, Core Brace; Jeff Ellis, SE, Director of Codes and Compliance, Simpson Strong-Tie; Byron Williams, Chief Administrative Officer, Oregon State Treasury; and Dr. Anahid Behrouzi, Assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering, California State University San Luis Obispo.

“Earthquakes can have devastating impacts on vulnerable buildings, people and our economy, but they don’t have to be disasters,” says Reis. “Investing in resilience is good economics, sound business, and responsible public policy, and this webinar will show how we can become more resilient now and in the future one building at a time.”

“We have learned much that can be used today to protect California’s economy and quality of life when earthquakes strike,” says Optimum Seismic Co-Founder [Ali Sahabi](#), a leader in earthquake retrofitting and the resilience movement. “This webinar will show property owners, businesses and public officials how advances in science and innovation can be used in their plans to protect investments, tenants, employees and the community at-large.”

“We must take earthquake threats seriously and act promptly,” adds Sahabi. “Owners risk building collapse, business failure, liability, bankruptcy and more. The bottom line is the economic benefits of earthquake retrofits and greater resilience are impossible --- and *dangerous* – to ignore.”

More retrofitting of existing buildings was urged by [The Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) in a major report presented to Congress in January. FEMA has estimated 40 percent of businesses that close their doors due to disasters will never reopen. When buildings collapse, businesses close and communities are hurt as workers lose their livelihoods and housing. Recovery can take years, if not decades.

USC researchers estimated Southern California could suffer property damage of \$113 billion in a major temblor, with additional business-related impacts of \$68 billion or more. Estimates put damages caused by a magnitude-7 earthquake on the [Puente Hills](#) fault running through downtown Los Angeles at more than \$252 billion with thousands killed and hundreds of thousands displaced.

More than 90 percent of buildings in California’s urban areas are estimated to not comply with modern building codes. Many older, vulnerable buildings can be made safer by earthquake retrofits.

In addition to the costs of physical damage, business interruption and lost market share caused by earthquakes, courts have determined property owners can be held legally liable for deaths and

injuries occurring in their buildings if they are found negligent of maintaining a hazardous condition by not taking reasonable actions to safeguard their facilities.

*The Resilience Advantage* webinars are exploring throughout 2021 how improved resilience can safeguard California's businesses and communities in the face of natural hazards such as earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and pandemics. Upcoming webinar dates and topics include:

**June 16      Knowledge is Power: How Ratings Systems Deliver Resilience**  
11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.  
Program Champions: U.S. Resiliency Council & Bizfed

**July 21      Can We Be come Resilient Before Disaster Strikes?**  
**Policy Options for A More Resilient Future** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To register for complimentary *The Resilience Advantage* webinars visit [optimumseismic.com/the-resilience-advantage/](https://optimumseismic.com/the-resilience-advantage/). For additional information call Optimum Seismic at 323-605-0312.

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