



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Geologic Safety Committee Meeting
November 11, 2024
10:00 AM

Nan Shostak, Chair,
Bob Wrucke, Vice Chair
Patricia McCrory, Secretary
Troy Douthit, Member
Gary Ernst, Member
Steve Ingebritsen, Member
Chet Wrucke, Member

REGULAR MEETING –
HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE - 765 PORTOLA ROAD ~ PORTOLA VALLEY

REMOTE MEETING ADVISORY: On March 1, 2023, all committees in Portola Valley will return to conducting in-person meetings. A Zoom link will be provided for members of the public to participate remotely; however, the Town cannot guarantee there will be no technical issues with the software during the meeting. For best public participation results, attending the meeting in-person is advised.

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Town Clerk at (650) 851-1700 or by email at towncenter@portolavalley.net. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81716468649?pwd=DDIFuuEwgNUfMbuii6QdejoXLNnpj5.1>

Webinar ID: 817 1646 8649

Passcode: 815807

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or 1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to three minutes.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. October 14, 2024 meeting
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Tips Subcommittee update: Workshop on Tip #1 from the Geologic Safety Committee
 - b. Evacuation Plan Subcommittee update
 - c. Seismic Resilience Subcommittee update
 - d. Black Mountain and Berrocal Faults Subcommittee update
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Suggestions for speakers at future meetings
 - b. Discussion: Report on meetings attended and upcoming
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**
This meeting body meets regularly on the second Monday of the month.

Land Acknowledgement:

The Town of Portola Valley acknowledges the colonial history of this land we dwell upon—the unceded territory of the Ramaytush (rah-my-toosh) Ohlone, Tamien Nation, and Muwekma (mah-WEK-mah) Ohlone, who endured a human and cultural genocide that included removal from their lands and their sacred relationship to the land. Portola Valley recognizes that we profit from the commodification of land seized from indigenous peoples and now bear the ecological consequences. We seek to understand the impact of these legacies on all beings and to find ways to make repair.

**Minutes of
GEOLOGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Monday, October 12, 2024**

Meeting location: Town Council Chamber in the Old Schoolhouse. This meeting was streamed via Zoom and recorded.

Committee Members present:

Nan Shostak [chair]
Bob Wrucke [vice-chair]
Troy Douthit
Gary Ernst
Patricia McCrory [secretary]

Town Council member present:

Mary Hufty [alternate]

MEETING SUMMARY

The Geologic Safety Committee (GSC) mainly discussed the process for releasing the accumulated observations relevant to recency of movement on the Black Mountain & Berrocal fault zones. The GSC also discussed the draft tips regarding earthquake preparedness which is intended for posting on the town website.

Call to order and roll call:

1010. Chair Nan Shostak called the meeting to order. Mary Hufty was present in lieu of Judith Hasko, our Town Council liaison

Comments from the public on topics not on the agenda:

1012. Chair Shostak called for public comments. Pat McCrory passed out draft tips (attached to minutes for today's meeting) related to earthquake preparedness based on those available via the USGS Earthquakes Hazards website. Bob Wrucke noted the Episcopal Church is available for public presentations and forums. Nan requested that the land acknowledgement was inadvertently added to the minutes and should be removed (but left on the agenda). Nan also requested two PowerPoint presentations, one on the Black Mountain fault zone, the other on the Berrocal fault zone, be appended to the August minutes. Gary Ernst recommended a disclaimer to accompany the slides—noting these interpretations are not final.

Approval of minutes of the previous meeting:

1023. The committee voted to approve the August 12th minutes with the addition of the PowerPoint slides and removal of the land note.

Old Business:

1025. Nan recounted a report, from former WFPD Fire Marshal Denise Enea, of traffic gridlock on I-280 triggered by a 1990s wildfire along Canada Road as a possible worst-case scenario. Troy Douthit noted that PG&E will underground power lines along Alpine Road from Hwy 280 possibly to near the Nathorst Triangle. Pat suggested urging AT&T to underground fiber-optic cable at the same time.

1038. Troy noted again that the utility companies are reluctant to share infrastructure information relevant to geologic and wildfire hazards. Nan asked Mary whether the PowerPoint presentations (with a disclaimer) need to go to the town council and the town geologist for review before releasing to residents. Draft disclaimer text:

“Accept the interim report on the Berrocal and Black Mountain fault zones with the proviso that it is a work in progress.”

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1048. The committee voted to approve this plan. Nan agreed to ask Russ Graymer (USGS) to review the PowerPoint presentations before forwarding to the town council.

1052. Bob offered to process additional bare earth LiDAR imagery along the fault zones.

1057. Committee discussed potential speakers who could address local ongoing earthquake hazard and risk studies as well as how post-earthquake investigations are tackled. Possible speakers include Russ Graymer (USGS), Tim Dawson (CGS), Sarah Minson (USGS), and Kim Blisniuk (San Jose State).

1102. Nan described a meeting with interim town manager, town geologist, Bob, and Chet Wrucke regarding comments on draft EIR for the anticipated Stanford Wedge development. Chet, Bob, and Nan met as individual residents, not members of the Geologic Safety Committee. In particular, the town geologist noted that a new trench will be cut along the inferred trace of the Hermit fault at the southern edge of the development site. Nan requested photographs of the previous trench walls.

Adjournment:

1108. Committee voted to adjourn meeting.

DRAFT TIP #1 FROM THE GEOLOGIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC RESOURCES RELEVANT TO EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE FOR TOWN RESIDENTS

Public agencies have prepared several FAQ sheets for Portola Valley residents relevant to earthquake hazards and risks. These FAQ sheets are available online and cover topics from how to prepare before a damaging earthquake, what to do during an earthquake, and what to do following an earthquake. Some of these documents can be found via the links listed below.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

There are four basic steps you can take to be more prepared for an earthquake:

Step 1: [Secure your space](#) by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.

Step 2: [Plan to be safe](#) by creating a disaster plan and deciding how you will communicate in an emergency.

Step 3: [Organize disaster supplies](#) in convenient locations.

Step 4: [Minimize financial hardship](#) by organizing important documents, strengthening your property, and considering insurance.

What emergency supplies do I need for an earthquake?

Fire extinguisher. Adequate supplies of medications that you or family members are taking. Crescent and pipe wrenches to turn off gas and water supplies. First-aid kit and handbook. Flashlights with extra bulbs and batteries. Portable radio with extra batteries. Water for each family member for at least two weeks (allow at least 1 gallon per person per day) and purification tablets or chlorine bleach to purify drinking water from other sources. Canned and package foods, enough for several days, and *mechanical* can opener. Extra food for pets if necessary. Camp stove or barbecue to cook on outdoors (store fuel out of the reach of children). Waterproof, heavy-duty plastic bags for waste disposal.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

What should I do DURING an earthquake?

If you are INDOORS -- STAY THERE! Get under a sturdy desk or table and hang on to it (Drop, Cover, and Hold on!) or move into a hallway or against an inside wall. STAY CLEAR of windows, doorways, fireplaces, and heavy furniture or appliances. GET OUT of the kitchen, which is a dangerous place (things can fall on you). DON'T run downstairs or rush outside while the building is shaking or while there is danger of falling and hurting yourself or being hit by falling glass or debris.

What should I NOT do during an earthquake?

DO NOT turn on the gas again if you turned it off; let the gas company do it. DO NOT use matches, lighters, camp stoves or barbecues, electrical equipment, appliances UNTIL you are sure there are no gas leaks. They may create a spark that could ignite leaking gas and cause an explosion and fire. DO NOT use your telephone, EXCEPT for a medical or fire emergency. You could tie up the lines needed for emergency response personnel.

What can I expect in my house when an earthquake occurs? How do I identify it? What can be done?

The contents of your home may be damaged and can be dangerous: Shaking can make light fixtures fall, refrigerators and other large items move across the floor, and bookcases and television sets topple over. IDENTIFY: Look around your house for things that could fall or move. Ask yourself if your cupboard doors could fly open (allowing dishes to shatter on the floor). Are TV and stereo fastened down and are shelves fastened to wall? Do you have hanging plants that might fall? Is there a heavy picture or mirror on the wall over your bed?

WHAT CAN BE DONE: You can install door latches, braces and fasteners to fix most of these hazards yourself.

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

What do I do AFTER an earthquake?

WEAR STURDY SHOES to avoid injury from broken glass and debris. Expect aftershocks. CHECK FOR INJURIES. If a person is bleeding, put direct pressure on the wound; use clean gauze or cloth if available. If a person is not breathing, administer CPR. DO NOT attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in further danger of injury. COVER injured persons with blankets to keep warm. SEEK medical help for serious injuries.