



News Release

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Former Senator William Campbell Recognized for Contributions to California's Leadership in Emergency Management

Contributions of Former State Geologist, Others Also Cited as Disaster Conference Ends

SACRAMENTO – Former Senator William Campbell was recognized on Wednesday, May 18, for his contributions to making California a national and worldwide leader in emergency management and mitigation as the fifth annual Disaster Resistant California Conference concluded.

“California has been a leader in emergency preparedness, response and mitigation on the national and international levels for more than seven decades, and Senator Campbell has been instrumental through his interest in and support of those efforts,” said Henry Renteria, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), which co-sponsors the conference with the Collaborative for Disaster Management.

Senator Campbell helped shape California's current emergency management system by authoring several amendments to the state's Emergency Services and Natural Disaster Assistance acts while representing communities in Los Angeles and Orange counties in the state Assembly and Senate.

“Senator Campbell's knowledge of emergency management and commitment to protecting Californians were evident in his leadership of the Blue Ribbon Commission established by former Governor Davis and Governor Schwarzenegger after the 2003 Southern California fires,” said Renteria.

Also receiving awards for their contributions to helping make California safer were:

- Alameda City Fire Department **Captain Rick J. Zombeck** for his work with residents, business owners and city agencies to implement a CERT program, disaster registry and other programs;
- Sierra County Health and Human Services Department Bioterrorism/Disaster Coordinator **Vickee Greer** for her efforts to centralize information on bioterrorism and disaster preparedness obtained through 13 county regional public health agencies through the website www.norcalbt.com;

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- Nextel's **Shane Harper** for his support of emergency management and the Disaster Resistant California conference series;
- Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness (BICEPP) Board Member **Bob Lee** for his efforts to promote emergency preparedness and mitigation in the private sector.

Also honored during the final day of the conference was former State Geologist James Davis. Davis received the California Earthquake Safety Foundation's Alquist Award for his contributions to earthquake safety.

"As state geologist and chair of the California Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council, Jim Davis has made significant contributions to the safety of Californians," said Renteria. "It is particularly fitting that both the retired Senator Alfred Alquist and the current Senator Elaine Alquist were present for today's ceremonies."

During his tenure in the legislature, the retired Senator Alquist made several contributions to earthquake safety, including his authorship of legislation establishing special study zones near earthquake faults.