



SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
CITIES ASSOCIATION  
June 10, 2010

- Campbell
- Cupertino
- Gilroy
- Los Altos
- Los Altos Hills
- Los Gatos
- Millpitas
- Monte Sereno
- Morgan Hill
- Mountain View
- Palo Alto
- San José
- Santa Clara
- Saratoga
- Sunnyvale

The Honorable Cameron Smyth, Chair  
Assembly Local Government Committee  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4098  
10<sup>th</sup> and L Streets  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for SB 1205 – San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Recovery Planning Council Act**

Dear Assembly Member Smyth:

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Cities Association, I am writing to express support for SB 1205 to develop a Bay Area Disaster Recovery Planning Council. We in the Bay Area understand that the San Francisco Bay Area will experience a major earthquake in its future and that it will affect the entire region, not just individual cities and counties. The best way for the Bay Area to recover in a timely manner is to be prepared before the disaster. As a designated regional entity, the Disaster Recovery Planning Council will help facilitate that recovery.

The regional nature of an earthquake demands a regional long-term recovery strategy that addresses such issues as transportation systems, water systems, airports/ports, housing and business recovery. With advance planning and preparation we can address these critical infrastructure and economic recovery needs together and plan for a more speedy and efficient regional recovery. The Planning Council administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments would develop a thoughtful, comprehensive plan with regional consensus and full participation of the cities, counties, special districts, school districts, emergency managers, hospitals, private businesses, members of the public, and nonprofits of the region.

A Bay Area Disaster Recovery Planning Council will provide the much needed answer to what happens after the earthquake, after immediate life and safety needs have been addressed. Past disasters clearly show the consequences of not preparing for recovery. New Orleans is still struggling to rebuild its communities more than five years after Hurricane Katrina. In Kobe, Japan where a massive earthquake devastated the region in 1995, thousands of people still live in temporary housing 15 years after the earthquake.

Through the Bay Area Disaster Recovery Planning Council, the San Francisco Bay Area can work toward addressing post disaster recovery and ensure that the region remains the economic driver of California and the nation. We urge your support of SB 1205 to help create a model regional solution.

Sincerely,

David Casas  
President, Santa Clara County Cities Association  
Mayor, City of Los Altos