

**Western States Seismic Policy Council  
2013 Awards in Excellence**

***Overall Award in Excellence for Mitigation Efforts***

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<b>Administering Agency:</b>	Washington State Seismic Safety Committee (SSC)
<b>Program Name:</b>	The Resilient Washington State Initiative
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**Program Summary**

The Washington State Seismic Safety Committee (SSC) initiated a project in early 2010 to prepare a policy paper with the purpose of creating a framework for improving Washington’s resilience when earthquakes occur. Such a framework includes more effective seismic mitigation policies and recommendations for legislation and policy changes to improve and enhance statewide seismic safety. The report will be used to facilitate long-term implementation of seismic risk reduction policies across the state with the goal of making the state resilient in a 50-year time frame.

To complete this effort, the SSC formed a subcommittee called the Resilient Washington State (RWS) Subcommittee. Beginning with a one-day workshop on September 17, 2010, to introduce the project, the RWS Subcommittee brought together more than 100 key experts and stakeholders to coordinate with each other in facilitated subgroups that would complete an assessment of recovery timeframes and recommend policy changes to meet transparent performance measures. To guide the project, the RWS Subcommittee defined a resilient state as “One that maintains services and livelihoods after an earthquake. In the event that services and livelihoods are disrupted, recovery occurs rapidly, with minimal social disruption, and results in a new and better condition.” A number of values were also developed to include: Life Safety and Human Health, Property Protection, Economic Security, Environmental Quality, and Community Continuity. The participants in the sector groups worked within their areas of expertise to evaluate—relative to earthquake resilience—the current condition of infrastructure or service located throughout the State of Washington. Participants used a two-pronged approach to assessing how long certain critical infrastructure and services may be down after an earthquake, which enabled the first holistic and comprehensive assessment of how long it would currently take for Washington State to recover from a serious earthquake, and identified realistic target timeframes for recovery. To fill the identified gaps between existing recovery capacity and the suggested performance measure, the RWS Subcommittee, with input from the project stakeholders, identified recommended policy and programmatic changes to in effect ‘buy down’ future recovery times by investing in smart mitigation efforts today.