

Description and Purpose of Task 2

PEER Tall Buildings Initiative—Task 2
Workshop April 18, 2007



Purpose of Task 2

- Task Official Charge: “Using an appropriate methodology, develop a consensus on performance objectives [for tall buildings].”
- Current design of many tall concrete condos under “Alternate Means” provisions of the code—forcing performance-based designs—generates the question of target performance and several sub-issues:
 - What is the performance expected of code buildings (that is to be matched in “Alternate Means” designs)?
 - Should these buildings be better than “normal code?”
 - Better in what performance category and how much better?

Evolving Output of Task 2

- Consensus (National? State? SF? and LA?) difficult if not impossible to identify within the confines of this project.
- Based on interviews and this workshop, Task Group 2 will recommend
 - Improved parameters to communicate earthquake risk to stakeholders
 - A reasonable interpretation of “normal” code performance if this is apparently acceptable
 - Whether there are strong feelings among stakeholders that tall building should be designed to perform better than normal buildings and for what reasons

Evolving Output of Task 2

- A recommendation to design tall buildings for enhanced performance:
 - Nationally is a code change issue and would be required to go through normal code change processes
 - Locally, as an alternate, is a public policy issue
 - If recommended, will be an important consideration for the balance of the Tall Buildings Initiative

Purpose of Workshop

- To present overall results of interviews
- To discuss and clarify important issues identified by interviews
- To identify and capture new issues or recommendations during discussions.

What is next?

- Issue Group 2 will document main points from interviews and workshop in a report
- Issue Group 2 will make recommendations to the Tall Building Initiative regarding performance considerations
- Issue Group 2 has already decided that enhanced performance, if indicated by this study, is a public policy issue:
 - Peer researchers could develop methodologies to consider enhanced performance as alternate to “equivalent” performance. Local jurisdictions could decide which performance to require as a matter of local public policy.
 - If justified, Task Group 2 or other interested parties could propose code change at NEHRP, ASCE 7, or IBC levels.