

It cannot be emphasized too much that our state is in a zone of high natural hazards. We are on a tectonically active margin of the North American Continent, with a subduction type of plate boundary, capable of creating great earthquakes and tsunamis at irregular and unpredictable intervals. We also have smaller crustal earthquake hazards as a result of our state rotating clockwise for the last 50 million years. We have a number of very large active volcanoes down the spine of our state. Since the volcanoes are related to the activity of the subduction zone, they will remain active as long as the subduction zone continues to provide fresh material to melt. We have a long coastline and inherent risks in an environment of rising ocean levels. We have very abundant winter rainfall on the western side of our state, exacerbating landslides in our hilly terrain. Ironically, we also have very dry summers which exacerbate fires and that problem seems to be worsening. Not only do these problems exist by themselves, but they beget other problems. For example both earthquakes and fires can trigger landslides. And we have yet to understand if there is a relationship between subduction zone movement and volcanic eruptions. We also do not understand the challenges we face due to climate change. I would strongly urge the legislature to fully fund research that seeks to improve our knowledge of these hazards and produces maps or other data for our other state agencies to work effectively in real time and mitigate these hazards. DOGAMI is the agency that does this important research work, please help to provide funds so that it can.