Oakland and New Orleans
Contrasts in Response and Recovery

Ezra Rapport
Association of Bay Area Governments
Loma Prieta
Downtown Oakland buildings and freeway relocation
Loma Prieta
Oakland City Hall
Loma Prieta
Oakland Recovery Plan

- Rebuilding City Hall
- Relocating City offices - Downtown Administration Center
- Redeveloping single-room occupancy units

All in the context of the Savings & Loan Financial Crisis.
1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm
Insured property
Hurricane Katrina
Citywide evacuation
Hurricane Katrina
Partially insured + Fed bailout
The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that there is a 62% probability that at least one earthquake of magnitude 6.7 or greater will occur on a known or unknown San Francisco Bay region fault before 2032.
The expected quake is far more devastating than recent experience.

Housing units rendered uninhabitable:
- Over 16,000 in Loma Prieta
- Over 46,000 in Northridge
- Over 155,000 in future

Hayward or San Andreas earthquakes
Insurance will not rebuild our housing. FEMA will not rebuild our housing.

- Estimated residential losses = $90 Billion
- Estimated residential losses covered by earthquake insurance = $4.4 Billion – 5%
84% of expected loss in housing units is multifamily housing.
Some neighborhoods will be devastated.

The Next Big One
ABAG’s efforts have built upon our role in regional mitigation planning.

- **Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
  - A regionally coordinated hazard mitigation plan, currently being updated, that includes over 100 jurisdictions and will incorporate regional mitigation priorities

- **Survey of Local Government Recovery Status**
  - We conducted a survey of cities and counties in 2008 and found a wide variation in local recovery planning and preparedness
The Next Big One
Planning for Recovery

The region’s current levels of preparation are inadequate for a smooth and speedy recovery.

- There is a wide variation in the levels of preparation among jurisdictions
- Federal and state agencies with recovery resources will be overwhelmed by dealing with each jurisdiction independently
- We need established and agreed upon processes for distributing resources and setting priorities for recovery after a disaster
To be successful, a recovery plan has to lead to speedy implementation, while also maximizing other values of importance to the community.

- An organized regional recovery plan should lead to implementation activities within 1-3 years
- This plan should also maximize the following goals:
  - Improved community resiliency and sustainability
  - Faster and more complete recovery
  - Minimize community disruption
  - Facilitate economic recovery and business retention
  - Reduce inequities in recovery and serve vulnerable communities
  - Address barriers to recovery
Much good work continues today.

- **San Francisco Bay Area Regional Emergency Coordination Plan, Recovery Subsidiary Plan**
  - Regional emergency coordinators developed the Recovery Subsidiary Plan applies to the 90-day period following a major disaster. The Plan describes the transition from the immediate response to a disaster into operations in which the recovery of affected communities is emphasized.

- **SPUR The Resilient City**
  - Part I of this report included target states of recovery for buildings and infrastructure. Future research will discuss governance issues for recovery.

- **Pilot Recovery Plans**
  - ABAG has been working with the City of Oakland on a pilot recovery plan, and will continue this work and begin work with San Jose this year. San Francisco is also working on a Citywide Post-Disaster Resilience and Recovery Initiative. We hope to develop these plans into more comprehensive plans for other jurisdictions throughout the region.
Six major areas must be addressed.

1. **Improving local jurisdiction preparedness for recovery**
   - E.g. Continuity of operation plans, accounting, repair and reconstruction ordinances, legal issues

2. **Synchronize jurisdictional and district actions**
   - E.g. Airports, ports, and ferry connections to roads and transit

3. **Restoring major infrastructure & functions**
   - E.g. Utilities, water, housing, transportation, government services

4. **Maintaining economic activity**
   - E.g. Needs of key industries, small businesses, employees

5. **Coordinating funding and legislative advocacy**
   - E.g. Setting priorities, accessing state and federal resources, identifying local funding options

6. **Securing reinvestment in buildings**
   - E.g. Lack of insurance issue, recapitalization options, redevelopment options