Division of the
State Architect
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



Earthquakes and Field Act

Long Beach Earthquake, March 10, 1933
Field Act, April 10, 1933
California Code of Regulation
Division of the State Architect

April 11th, 2013

Long Beach Earthquake

The Long Beach Earthquake was a magnitude 6.3 earthquake that occurred on March 10, 1933. Significant damage was reported:

- Within seconds, about 75% of the public school buildings were heavily damaged
- More than 100 people died
- If the earthquake had occurred several hours earlier, when school is in session, the loss of life would be much greater

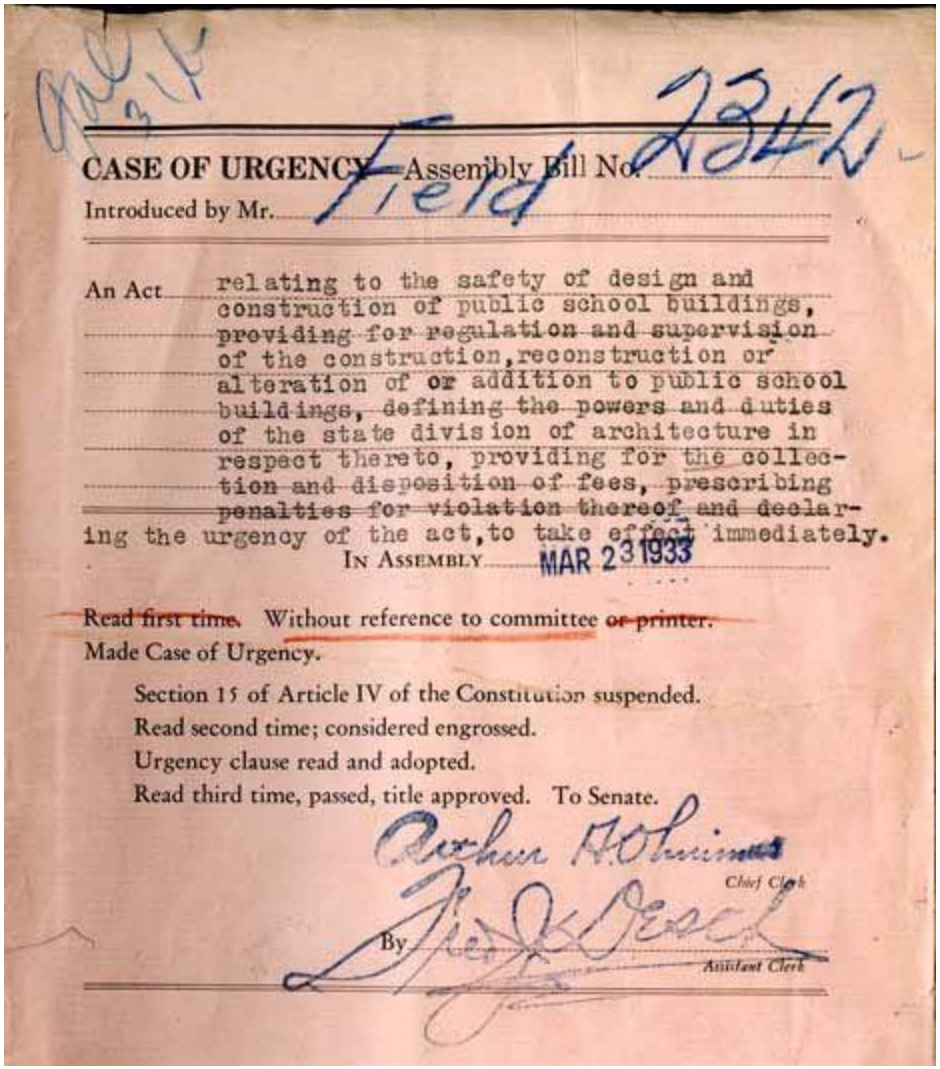
In comparison, the Loma Prieta Earthquake was a magnitude 6.9 earthquake that occurred on October 17, 1989 . Although 63 people died, school buildings did not suffer any major structural damage.

Field Act

Within a month from the Long Beach Earthquake, legislators, educators, parents got involved to draft the legislation that mandated earthquake resistant design.

- The Act was named after California Assemblyman Charles Field
- Banned the construction of unreinforced masonry building
- Established the Office of State Architect (now DSA)
- Development of procedure to be applied in the design and construction of public school buildings

Field Act



CASE OF URGENCY — Assembly Bill No. 2342

Introduced by Mr. Field

An Act relating to the safety of design and construction of public school buildings, providing for regulation and supervision of the construction, reconstruction or alteration of or addition to public school buildings, defining the powers and duties of the state division of architecture in respect thereto, providing for the collection and disposition of fees, prescribing penalties for violation thereof and declaring the urgency of the act, to take effect immediately.

IN ASSEMBLY MAR 23 1933

Read first time. Without reference to committee or printer.
Made Case of Urgency.

Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution suspended.
Read second time; considered engrossed.
Urgency clause read and adopted.
Read third time, passed, title approved. To Senate.

Arthur A. Ohnimus
Chief Clerk

By [signature]
Assistant Clerk

Building codes for public schools

2010 California Building Code is the current applicable code for the design of public school buildings. The California legislature delegated authority to various state agencies, including DSA, OSHPD ,HCD, to create building regulations.

- Part 1 - Administrative
- Part 2 - Building Code
- Parts 3, 4, 5, 6 – Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing & Energy Codes
- Part 9 - Fire Code

DSA developed additional interpretation of the regulation, and procedures, and guidelines to help the school architects to apply the codes to the design of school buildings.

Division of the State Architect

Established in 1933, The Division of the State Architect provides design and construction oversight for K–12 schools, community colleges, and various other state-owned and leased facilities. The Division also develops accessibility, structural safety, and historical building codes and standards utilized in various public and private buildings throughout the State of California.

http://www.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/Home.aspx