February 7, 2007

Dr. Mark Myers
Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Mail Stop 100
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

Subject: 2006 Annual Report of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee

Dear Director Myers:

Enclosed is our fifth committee report on the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program for submission to Congress and other interested parties, particularly the NEHRP Lead Agency.

The committee met three times in 2006, and identified challenges, opportunities, and recommendations that are included throughout our report. However, we believe there are three especially important high-priority recommendations for the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program at this time.

1. The SESAC encourages the development of risk-targeted ground motion maps as a means for enhancing the ways in which risk is judged by both the public and private sectors, and suggests that the needs of potential users and potential actions from them be carefully considered in its development.

2. Full Funding of ANSS: As stated in past Committee reports, the SESAC strongly recommends to the Director of the USGS, that full funding of the ANSS at the level authorized in the current NEHRP legislation be appropriated. The USGS must make a commitment to work through the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that this objective is met.

3. The SESAC endorses the decision by the USGS to proceed with a multi-hazard demonstration project in Southern California. In addition, the SESAC encourages the demonstration project to
expand the multi-hazard scope to eventually include the San Francisco Bay Area multi-hazards as part of this effort.

Sincerely,

Lloyd S. Cluff
Chairman

cc: Committee members
    David Applegate, USGS, Reston
    Mike Blanpied, USGS, Reston
    William Leith, USGS, Reston
    Elizabeth Lemersal, USGS, Reston
    Rufus Catchings, USGS, Menlo Park
    Jill McCarthy, USGS, Golden