

August 8, 2024

[Owner name]

[Owner mailing address]

[City, State Zip]

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Your building has been identified as having a potentially Soft, Weak, or Open-Front (SWOF) wall line and is vulnerable to earthquake damage.**

Dear [Owner Name]:

To safeguard people and property, cities and counties throughout California are focusing on protecting buildings that are potentially vulnerable to earthquake damage. These buildings are generally older and were constructed prior to the use of modern materials and updated building codes. Many cities and counties have already introduced ordinances and programs to reduce these potential hazards. Similar initiatives have begun in the City of Long Beach.

A study has been conducted to identify buildings that may have characteristics consistent with soft, weak, or open-front wall lines. These wood-framed buildings, usually constructed before 1978, are particularly susceptible to damage or collapse during strong earthquake events. Working with building owners and other stakeholders, the City of Long Beach is creating a Building Seismic Resiliency Program. The intent of this program is to reduce the risk of earthquake-related damage and promote life safety in the City of Long Beach through voluntary building strengthening.

An independent engineering firm was enlisted to perform a city-wide survey to identify these potentially vulnerable buildings. The initial inventory list resulting from this survey indicates **your building, described below, has been identified as having a potential Soft, Weak, or Open-Front (SWOF) wall line.**

[SWOF Property Address]

[APN]

[#Units] Units and [#Stories] Number of Stories, Built in [Year Built]

City staff is working to validate the information in this inventory list. We need property owners of identified buildings to help confirm or update the inventory data. Please verify or correct the potential SWOF determination of your building by completing and returning the SWOF Inventory Screening form (FORM-062) by November 30, 2024. The screening form can be downloaded at [www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram](http://www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram). The final inventory will be made available to the public some time on or after December 31, 2024, when verification is completed.

**You may ensure your property is accurately represented** in the inventory by returning the survey to the City of Long Beach – Building and Safety Bureau. ATTN: Seismic Program, 411 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA. 90802 or you may email the survey to [SeismicProgram@longbeach.gov](mailto:SeismicProgram@longbeach.gov). Accurate records are critical to the success of this program, and we kindly ask for your assistance in this effort.

Additionally, as part of the Building Seismic Resiliency Program, the City is in the process of updating the voluntary SWOF strengthening ordinance (LBMC 18.70). This ordinance aims to encourage property owners to take action to voluntarily strengthen their SWOF buildings. Virtual and in-person outreach meetings were held on June 20, 2024. If you were unable to join us, please visit [www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram/](http://www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram/) to view a recording of the event and obtain handouts. You are also encouraged to sign-up under the “How to Get Involved” section of the website to receive email communications regarding future meetings, events, program status, and more.

Your input is important in achieving our goal of developing an improved, more effective Building Seismic Resiliency Program. We encourage you to join us at the next community outreach event to learn more and provide your feedback. All feedback received during outreach meetings will be used to help inform us of the updates to the Long Beach Municipal Code we need to make to encourage and support voluntary seismic strengthening. A flyer with additional information about upcoming community outreach events is enclosed in this mailing. We greatly encourage your participation in these meetings.

For more information about the Building Seismic Resiliency Program and resources, please visit [www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram/](http://www.longbeach.gov/seismicprogram/).

Sincerely,

**David Khorram, P.E., C.B.O., C.G.B.P.**  
*Superintendent of Building & Safety - Building Official*  
*CA. Hospital Building Safety Past Board Member*  
*CALBO Past President*