

# Officials hopeful of getting earthquake building list

By Gong Lin II and Rosanna Xia, Los Angeles Times, 11-20-13

Meeting Tuesday with the city's top building official, scientists who have a list of concrete buildings that could be at risk of collapsing in a major earthquake agreed to work with city officials on how to use the research data, once formally published.

Releasing the published research, which includes a list," said Jeff Millman, spokesman for Mayor Garcetti. "There will be additional discussions with the UC researchers after publication about how to use this data."

It is unclear whether the researchers, led by UC Berkeley engineering professor Jack Moehle, will provide the city an inventory they compiled that identifies about 1,500 concrete structures built before 1970 for a further study to determine their risks of collapse in an earthquake.

Local engineers have said hundreds could die if even one concrete building collapsed. Seismic experts say getting a list like Moehle's is critical for the city to begin tackling the problem.

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety asked for the list at the direction of Garcetti.

In a statement after Tuesday's meeting, the UC researchers and the mayor's office said: "The department and researchers agreed to coordinate regarding how the city might use data generated by the study for a future publication."

"Our goal as researchers is to have our work play a positive role in improving life and safety in California and the world," Moehle said in the statement.

City spokeswoman Janet Gilmore did not provide any additional information.

The list of buildings was produced by Moehle's team as part of an ongoing study backed by a \$3.6-million grant from the National Science Foundation. By the most conservative estimate, as many as 5%, or 75 buildings, could collapse in a major earthquake, according to the scientists' figures.

Earlier this month, Moehle wrote that the university was "investigating the legal and ethical constraints" of releasing primary research data. Moehle had earlier rejected a verbal request by the city for the information.

City officials have told The Times that seeing the list would be helpful to the city.