

EDITORIAL

Is California prepared?

Several days ago, a massive earthquake hit San Francisco, registering 6.9 on the Richter scale. Over 200 people have been killed, and the estimated damage is around a few billion dollars. Years of development fell to ruins in a few minutes, and the city must rebuild, again. For years, geologists have been predicting that "the big one"—an earthquake to beat all earthquakes—is going to come to California. It could hit Los Angeles or San Francisco, or the whole coast. No one for sure knows exactly when, but it's only a matter of time, they say. Could Tuesday's disaster have been a prelude? Let's hope not, but with the development continuing at an incredible pace in the Golden State, are Californians really prepared? Are the metropolises preparing their residents for what could be a disaster unmatched in history? Are officials sure that new buildings today are truly "earthquake-proof?" If another earthquake is on its way, why don't officials consider limiting certain development? Of course, there's nothing wrong with development. However, if it all comes crumbling down, what good is it? Critics say the cities aren't doing enough to prepare citizens, while others counter that their programs are just fine, and buildings are safe enough. That's funny, but the same thing was said about the span of freeway that collapsed on hundreds of motorists in San Francisco.

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THE YELLIN' REBEL**

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