

SEAOSC Supports Adoption of Seismic Retrofit

Ordinance by the City of Los Angeles

SEAOSC NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2015

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Back row: Michael Cochran, SEAOSC Past President, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Kevin O'Connell, SEAOSC Immediate Past President Front row: Dr. John Wallace, Dr. Lucy Jones, Dr. Mike Mehrain

On October 9, 2015, the city of Los Angeles adopted an ordinance intended to improve the seismic resilience of the city. This ordinance is aimed at mitigating known seismic deficiencies related to non-ductile concrete buildings and wood-framed multi-unit and/or multi-story soft-story buildings that exhibit poor seismic performance during earthquakes.

The cost and inconvenience of implementing a seismic retrofit to a vulnerable building can be daunting, especially when weighed against the seemingly rare occurrence of a major earthquake. However, those of us living in Southern California understand that the question is not if the next damaging earthquake will occur, but when. We have learned from our experiences in both Northern and Southern California that the financial fallout of a major earthquake can outlast the rebuilding effort. Any government retrofit mandate must give careful consideration to costs associated with construction and interruption; but we believe these cost considerations should not be allowed to outweigh the importance of public life-safety, personal and community resilience, and continued regional economic viability after the next major earthquake.

Major changes to the California building codes were implemented after the 1971 San Fernando, 1989 Loma Prieta, and 1994 Northridge earthquakes. These changes increased the cost of new building construction while enhancing building performance and life-safety standards. After each of these significant earthquakes, California residents came to understand the reality of increased general construction cost as a necessity for safer buildings, and our economy adjusted each time.

While building codes focus primarily on new construction, the earthquake vulnerability of existing buildings designed and constructed to earlier codes remains to be addressed. The adoption of this seismic retrofit ordinance does exactly that. As cities realize being unprepared is no longer an acceptable strategy, seismic retrofit ordinances encourage the expenditure of financial capital under controlled circumstances before an earthquake happens. This enhances the community's resilience, improves the likelihood that properties will continue generating income after an earthquake, and establishes a culture of preparedness by setting forth expectations for building performance that protect the lives and livelihoods of owners, tenants, and occupants.

The Structural Engineers Association of Southern California pledges to continue working with regional city leaders and agencies to establish earthquake risk reduction strategies as those cities, like Los Angeles, strive to improve their seismic safety and overall resilience through safer and better performing buildings.

Coming Ux

NOVEMBER

- **SEAOSC Summit:**
- **Strengthening Our Cities Cathedral Conference**
 - **Center, Los Angeles**
- **COSMOS Annual Meeting** and Technical Session

DECEMBER

- 2 **LA Dinner Meeting Luminarias, Monterey Park**
- **SEAOSC Holiday Party** Parker's Lighthouse, Long Beach



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michelle Kam-Biron, S.E., S.E.C.B.

CHANGE...this is not a word that gives everyone a warm and fuzzy feeling. In fact most people don't like change. However, we live in an ever changing world and the only thing that is constant in life is change. If you watched the video via the link, you saw that there has been a tremendous amount of change in the last ten-plus

years. How does SEAOSC survive and adapt to the changing world? SEAOSC needs to **change**.

It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change. — Charles Darwin

CHANGING the dialog SEAOSC has with the community. Resilience is a word that some may think is being overused in our industry. However, structural engineers need to incorporate it more and more into our discussions with architects, other engineers, building officials, and the general public. As structural engineers, we design the building structure per the mandated building code which provides building collapse prevention criteria if a major natural disaster occurs. The challenge is that the general public often thinks that buildings are "earthquake proof." The reality is that if a major disaster occurs, most people will not be able to re-occupy the buildings in which they live, work, or shop.

The impact is not only a threat to the life safety of our community, but it will also affect our livelihood and our economic wellbeing as it did in Nepal, Haiti, New Zealand, and parts of the U.S. which are now devastated as a result of a major earthquake or hurricane. As structural engineers, we need to communicate that there is a need to design buildings for higher standards than just code minimum so that we can have resilient communities. This was highlighted during our October 7th Dinner topic with over sixty people in attendance hearing not only about earthquake tragedies in Nepal and New Zealand but also about how this resonates here in the U.S. We need to start to change the dialog regarding the importance of resilience.

Leaders think and talk about the solutions. Followers think and talk about the problems.

— Brian Tracy

More **change**....A historical event for SEAOSC and the City of Los Angeles occurred on October 9th when Mayor Eric Garcetti signed into law a mandatory building retrofit ordinance to prevent loss of life in the event of a major earthquake. This would not have happened without Mayor Garcetti's Resilience by Design program. SEAOSC participated in Dr. Lucy Jones'Task Group to help develop this document and highlight the need for building retrofit and the importance of including structural engineers in the development of solutions to create a resilient community.

SEAOSC Seismology and Existing Buildings Committees have been developing design examples to address the LA Ordinances that include non-ductile concrete buildings and wood-framed multi-unit and/or multi-story, soft-story buildings that exhibit poor seismic performance during earthquakes. The November 4-5th SEAOSC Summit will include presentations about the design examples on day one and one day two we will perpetuate discussion with the public and policy makers on the importance of seismic safety. We hope to see you there!

SEAOC, with participation from the four MO's, continues to represent its membership via the Elevated Exterior Elements Committee (EEEC) working on specific issues associated with balconies. For background on the issue, see the SEAOC website. The City of Berkeley has allowed very little external expertise to contribute to the discussion on the balcony issues and in July sent a letter to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC), addressing code amendments requiring higher standards for weather-exposed balconies and similar elements. The EEEC worked diligently debating the issues and developed a letter to CBSC, included in this newsletter, which offers SEAOC's expertise to participate in the process as well as recommendations in response to some of the points made in the Berkeley letter.

In the October newsletter, I mentioned some changes that were occurring for SEAOSC and subsequently a Board email (see attached) was sent announcing a change in our executive management from Gilbert Assoc. Management, LLC (GAM) to BSC Management, Inc. Although we have **changed** companies, we should not forget that we are building from the many years of service that was provided by Don Gilbert, Lynn Hanger, and Gilbert Association Management (GAM).

With this change, we are fortunate to have BSC very proactively working with the SEAOSC Executive committee to make this a smooth transition. They bring the expertise and focused resources that SEAOSC needs to meet this ever-changing industry. Our new Executive Director Jenay Root, has worked diligently and expeditiously throughout this transition. The SEAOSC Board is excited about <a href="https://www.what.engline.com/what.eng

Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future — John F. Kennedy

Lastly, in order to encourage people to actually read the President's message I am starting a raffle. To enter the raffle to **WIN a STARBUCKS Gift Card** or an **AWC Electronic publication**, please follow this link to a <u>survey</u> and answer questions about the President's message. Two winners will be chosen from those that complete the survey.

Have an Extraordinary Day and Dream!

Michelle Kam-Biron, PE, SE, SECB SEAOSC President

Dear SEAOSC Member,

Our profession and our Association are in the midst of some of the most significant times in our history. The public's awareness of what we do is at an all-time high. Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's Resilience by Design is shining a spotlight on issues that have been near and dear to our hearts for a long time. The re-alignment plan initiated a few years ago has re-energized the association, spurring growth and financial strength.

To discuss these significant developments, the future direction of the Association, and how best to meet the challenges that lay ahead, the Board recently participated in a strategic planning retreat. After considerable discussions and consultation with the current and past Boards, as well as Past Presidents, the SEAOSC Board of Directors unanimously voted to engage the services of a new association management company.

Effective October1, 2015, BSC Management will begin serving the Association. BSC Management is a multi-disciplinary firm that manages non-profit associations with in-depth resources to support website management, event planning, long and short range planning, budget management, book-keeping, etc. In operation since 1982, BSC has managed small and large associations, guided clients to impressive membership growth, and received glowing recommendations from their references. At this special time, with the public more interested in structural engineering and community resilience, our association is at a juncture where the resources BSC brings to the table will be invaluable toward our goal of improving value to our membership and creating an impact in our communities.

We wish to express our gratitude to Don Gilbert, Lynn Hanger, and Gilbert Association Management (GAM) for their many years working with our association. We are pleased that GAM has committed to assist with this transition through the end of September. We all have many good memories working as partners with GAM on the ever continuing path toward a better association. We thank Don and Lynn and wish Gilbert Association Management all the best.

The Board, BSC Management, and GAM will work together to assure that management of the association continues as smoothly as possible and we appreciate your patience and understanding. The SEAOSC phone number and email address will remain the same and we will be updating the mailing address soon. Feel free to contact BSC Management, who will send out contact information shortly, or the Board with any questions regarding this change.

We are confident with the expertise and focused resources this change will bring and look forward to improving our member benefits, our outreach, and the increased impact our association will have on our profession and communities! Please join us in welcoming our new association management company, BSC Management.

Respectfully,

SEAOSC Board of Directors





SEAOSC Summit

What Does LA City's Retrofit Ordinance Mean to ME, a Structural Engineer?

On Friday, October 9th, LA's City Council enacted a new retrofit requirement requiring soft-story and non-ductile concrete buildings to be retrofitted within 7 or 25 years, respectively. It is estimated that this ordinance will effect 13,500 soft-story buildings and 1,500 buildings across the city of LA. So how does this retrofit effect you?

The City of LA will soon start notifying building owners of their need to retrofit their building. Want to learn the latest on when the notices will be given? Want to know the latest retrofit techniques? Want to meet local building owners and property managers?

If so, don't delay, sign up now for the SEAOSC Summit — Strengthening Our Cities. Space is limited and seats are selling out quickly. November 4th and 5th at the Cathedral Plaza.

http://seaoscsummit.org/





UPCOMING EVENTS

OC DINNER MEETING

Virtual To Reality: Examining the Construction process From the Contractor's Perspective

October 28, 2015 – 5:00PM PST Oak Creek Golf Club - Irvine, CA

If you ever feel frustrated with RFI's, curious about roadblocks in a construction schedule, or eager to better relate to the contractors on your team, join us at our October Orange County dinner program and contractor panel discussion.

Visit <u>www.seaosc.org/events</u> to learn more and register.

WFBINAR:

2012 IBC Structural Design Requirements for Steel Moment Frames

October 28, 2015 - 12:00PM PST

This webinar will address the 2012 IBC structural design requirements for ordinary and special steel moment frames contained in ASCE 7-10 and AISC 341-10. Special attention will be given to seismic design considerations and the research involving moment frames.

Visit <u>www.seaosc.org/events</u> to learn more and register.

31st Annual Disaster Preparedness Academy hosted by Red Cross

October 28, 2015
Anaheim Convention Center - Anaheim, CA

The American Red Cross and its partners make preparedness more easily achievable through the Disaster Preparedness Academy (DPA). Now in its 31st year, the DPA's mission is to provide information to the community regarding emergency preparedness planning, mitigation, response and recovery.

www.redcross.org/news/event/ca/orange-county/Disaster-Preparedness-Academy-2015

COSMOS Annual Meeting and Technical Session

November 13, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel San Francisco Airport - Burlingame, CA

This year's Technical Session will primarily focus on issues with current ground-motion design value maps and proposed solutions to overcome these issues.

http://www.cosmos-eq.org/

LA DINNER MEETING

December 2, 2015 Luminarias, Monterrey Park, CA

For more information, please contact the SEAOSC office.



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Compelling Topic Drew Large Crowd at SEAOSC's October LA Dinner Meeting

Nearly 100 SEAOSC members and guests attended the LA Dinner Meeting held October 7th at Luminarias in Monterey Park, CA. They enjoyed a social networking hour, dinner and informative presentations from three panelists. The panelists captivated the attendees with their first-hand accounts of structural assessment and search & rescue efforts in Nepal after the earthquake.

Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto, SE, President and CEO of Miyamoto International, Inc. discussed his findings on performance of high rise concrete buildings and their implications for Performance Based Engineering in California. Kit says "None of the high rise concrete buildings collapsed or were even structurally damaged but too many people became homeless because of non-structural issues."

Donny Harris, SE, LEED AP, Associate, KPFF went to Nepal with a search and rescue team (through the USAR task force). They spent approximately three weeks there. For much of that time, the structural engineers were loaned out doing structural assessments for different organizations since the search and rescue component on the team was not active between earthquakes.

Kenneth O'Dell, SE, Partner, MHP, Inc. Structural Engineers visited Nepal following the earthquake and shared his experiences including the collaborative relationship that was built between the American and Nepalese engineers.



SEAOSC Presence at ICC Annual Conference a Huge Success

The SEAOSC Image & Public Relations Committee organized and staffed an exhibit booth at the 2015 International Code Council Annual Conference at the Long Beach Convention Center September 27-28. ICC was very enthusiastic about SEAOSC joining the conference expo — they even provided our booth space on a complimentary basis! With nearly constant visits and many questions, conference attendees showed exceptional interest in structural engineers and our profession, as well as how SEAOSC & SEAOC serve our members, the construction industry, and the community at large. Our participation was a true success, and I/PR looks forward to bringing SEAOSC to future industry conferences in Southern California

Thank you to the I/PR Committee members who volunteered and to ICC for providing the complimentarbooth registration. This partnership resulted in a huge success!

Funding Request Recently Approved for UC San Diego Outdoor Shake Table Was Strongly Endorsed by SEAOSC

SEAOSC leadership and members were pleased with the recent news regarding the approved funding for the outdoor shake table research facility at the University of California, San Diego. For the past ten years, California has been fortunate to host this full-scale research facility which is dedicated to investigating the effects of seismic loads on our infrastructure. The value of the facility has been recognized by research scientists, engineers and numerous companies throughout California and the United States. This has been illustrated by partnerships between researchers and practitioners to construct full-scale structures to test the structural components (such as beams, columns, joints, walls, floors and structural systems), non-structural components (such as heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems and medical equipment).

These partner sponsorships provide a more cost-effective means for researchers from across the country to us the UCSD facility to solve critical problems and reduce the threat posed by destructive earthquakes, not only in California but worldwide.

Furthermore, as a result of the research conducted at the UCSD facility, educational K-12 programs and curriculum aligned with science standards have been developed and community earthquake awareness documentaries have been televised.

The versatility of this unique world-class facility helps state and local government officials validate strengthening and retrofit strategies for older buildings (for example, unreinforced masonry, weak concrete and tilt-up buildings), and potentially perform tests on dams, intake towers, airport control towers, electrical substations, nuclear plants and nuclear waste storage components, lifelines, liquefaction, bridges, buildings, and other structures. Research conducted on this shake table is able to verify the performance of new building codes, retrofit technologies, risk assessment and other mitigation actions and policies.

The recent approval of the funding means the vital work of this facility can now continue, deterring the transfer of large-scale shake table research projects to other countries which may have different testing protocols and construction standards than the U.S. at a much higher cost.



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October 19, 2015

California Building Standards Commission c/o Michael Nearman, Deputy Executive Director 2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130 Sacramento, CA 95833

Subject: Agenda Item 8 for October 21, 2015 meeting

Building code amendments for occupied, elevated, weather-exposed building areas

Dear Commissioners:

The fatal balcony collapse of June 16, 2015 in Berkeley, California is a sobering reminder of the importance of building codes, sound design practice, sound construction practice, and ample construction quality assurance practice. In response to this unfortunate event, the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) convened an ad-hoc committee to discuss issues related to occupied, elevated, weather-exposed, wood-framed building areas, such as projecting balconies and exterior stairs, referred to hereafter as exterior elevated elements, or EEEs. SEAOC is a not-for-profit organization comprising practicing structural engineers and researchers. Its mission includes providing the public with safe and dependably performing structures.

The design and construction of EEEs are challenging endeavors complicated by the need to satisfy the multiple, often competing, objectives of structural safety, water resistance, fire safety, long life and aesthetics. There is no single solution to creating well performing EEEs, but implementation of the measures described below will facilitate improved performance. Implementation of the measures should be pursued at the state and national levels, and SEAOC welcomes the opportunity to participate in that process.

SEAOC has reviewed the letter the Berkeley City Council sent to the BSC urging the BSC to introduce more restrictive standards concerning the design of EEEs. In that letter the Council suggests amending the California Building Code to require EEE construction to include: 1) materials resistant to deterioration due to fungal decay; 2) ample ventilation enabling water that reaches structural components an opportunity to quickly evaporate; and 3) a means for periodically accessing concealed structural components to assess their condition state as a routine, preventative maintenance measure. Berkeley further proposes an additional code amendment requiring EEEs' construction to consist of corrosion resistant steel if the three forgoing attributes are not employed.

SEAOC supports the general intent of the Berkeley City Council's letter, but recommends the following, somewhat different course of action:

- 1. Review water barrier requirements in the California Building Code and the California Residential Code: A review of current building code requirements regulating the design, construction and construction inspection of water barriers is recommended. The most important and most efficient means of mitigating the risk of poor EEE performance, as seen in Berkeley on June 16, is to provide a competent water barrier. Inhibiting water from entering the building envelope will increase the safe performing life of EEEs. If the code lacks adequate regulation in these areas, the code ought to be amended accordingly. If current code is deemed to adequately regulate these areas, code enforcement practices ought to be evaluated.
- 2. Review ventilation requirements in the California Building Code and the California Residential Code: A review of current building code requirements concerning ventilation for wood framed EEEs is recommended. Water contact with wood framing is not necessarily a hazardous condition. Wood generally retains its structural integrity if exposed to water provided adequate ventilation is present that enables the water to evaporate relatively quickly. Wood exposed to water in concealed conditions where water evaporation occurs more slowly fosters fungal growth. Various fungi species consume wood, which precipitates decay and compromises structural integrity. If ventilation requirements do not exist, the code ought to be amended accordingly. Code changes introducing requirements to provide ventilation openings ought to consider the consequences to the affected elements' fire rating.



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Consider introducing requirements in the California Building Code and the California Residential Code to improve the durability of EEEs' structural members where the structural members are concealed: SEAOC supports discussion of possible amendments to the building code to require primary structural members in some EEEs to be constructed of decay resistant materials, especially in instances where it is possible for water to become trapped in concealed compartments where wood framing is present.

Decay-resistant materials include naturally durable wood, preservative treated wood, properly galvanized hot-rolled steel, stainless steel, corrosion resistant metals or a combination thereof. These durable materials serve as a secondary safety measure should water inadvertently breach the water barrier. Light-gage, cold-formed steel is not recommended in this application.

While no material is deterioration-proof when exposed to water for protracted durations, resistant material can incrementally prolong the safe life of structural members. Longer life heightens the likelihood of detecting deterioration prior to structural failure, particularly in concealed conditions that lack ventilation or where water has inadvertently breached the weather barrier. For example, in the case of projecting, cantilevered balconies, soffits are often coated with paint that is impervious to water. Water that breaches a deficient water barrier and becomes trapped will not necessarily manifest as stains on the soffit surface. Without stains to warn water is present, fungal growth can progress undetected until structural integrity is severely compromised.

Introducing code changes can result in unintended consequences and caution must be exercised. If a requirement to employ durable structural materials in EEEs is introduced and preservative treated wood is included among acceptable durable materials, the chemical compatibility of preservative treated wood in contact with metal fasteners in the sustained presence of water will have to be evaluated. Chemicals used in wood preservatives are known to accelerate corrosion of some steel fasteners in certain circumstances. If water infiltrates the building envelope, metal structural connectors, such as nails, bolts, and joist hangers, are vulnerable to strength loss if in sustained contact with preservative treated wood and water.

The poor performance of EEEs is generally attributable to a combination of unfavorable circumstances. Safeguarding against poor EEE performance requires consideration of the multiple components that constitute EEEs and their performance in the presence of water. SEAOC would welcome the opportunity to assist the BSC and other state agencies with the complex task of developing building code amendments that foster the design and construction of safe EEEs.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cobeen, SE
President, Board of Directors
Structural Engineers Association of California

Jeff Taner, SE
Co-Chair, Ad-hoc Committee on Elevated Exterior Elements

Structural Engineers Association of California

((:

Berkeley City Council c/o Rose Thomsen, Deputy City Clerk

Mr. Eric Angstadt, Director, City of Berkeley Planning and Development Dept.

Mr. Alex Roshal, Manager, City of Berkeley Building and Safety

Mr. Shawn P. Huff, Assistant Deputy Director, Dept. of Housing & Community Development

Mr. James Hackett, Supervising Structural Engineer, Division of the State Architect

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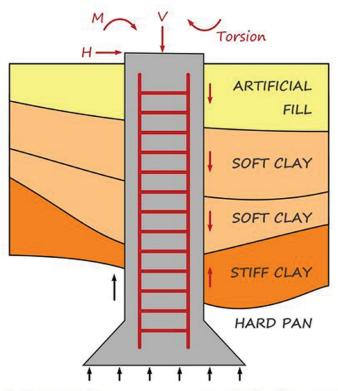
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PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE REQUIRED MINI-MUM QUALIFICATIONS. Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume along with a cover letter to careers@KNAconsulting.com. For more information, please visit us at www.KNAconsulting.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc06/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=MIYAMOT0&cws=1&rid=28

http://www.miyamotointernational.com/



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS •

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

The SEAOSC Board of Directors works on the behalf of our membership. If there are general or specific items you would like to see the Board of Directors address or discuss please contact any of the SEAOSC Board members.

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SEAOSC Executive Director

Jenay Root

jenay@seaosc.org 562-908-6131 ext.127 Get involved! Members are invited to join a SEAOSC committee. Please contact the chairperson for information on current projects and meeting times, dates and locations.

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Quality Assurance	Bob Lyons*	818-729-9777	blyons@risha.com
Legislative	Kevin O'Connell*	213-271-1934	kdoconnell@sgh.com
Sustainable Design	Jeff Haight*	805-963-1210	jhaight@eshse.com
EPRS Ad Hoc	Leo Torres	818-844-1969	torres@kcse.com



Please visit

http://seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees

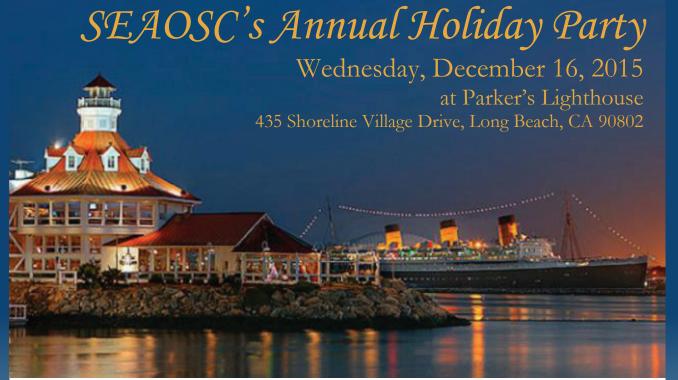
to view the annual committee charges and tasks.





HOLIDAY EVENT





This year's event will include cocktails, dinner, and a "50/50" raffle to benefit the upcoming Students Night scholarships.



Social Hour: 6 – 7pm Dinner: 7pm Entrée Options: Petite Fillet or Mahi Mahi Attire: Holiday Semi-Formal

Price: \$85 per General Member/Guest \$35 per Young Professional/Guest* Parking is included.





* Associate, Young Associate & Student Members of SEAOSC. Young Professionals Discount sponsored by CSI.

Register now at www.seaoscholidayparty.eventbrite.com
Advanced reservations required by Friday, December 11, 2015
www.seaosc.org

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