



## Press Release

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**Contact:** Kathleen Cha, 510/464-7922, Kathleenc@abag.ca.gov  
Leah Zippert, 510/464-7995, Leahz@abag.ca.gov  
Halimah Anderson, 510/464-7986, Halimaha@abag.ca.gov

### For Immediate Release

## **Earthquake Retrofit Workshop for Homeowners April 9, 2011**

Oakland, CA...Recent disasters in New Zealand and Japan have made us all ask how we can better prepare ourselves for the future impacts of earthquakes. All homeowners have an opportunity to take an immediate and concrete step forward by retrofitting their homes. To help make homes more secure and less vulnerable to earthquakes, the public is invited to attend a free Seismic Retrofitting Workshop for Bay Area Homeowners on April 9th, 10-12 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue in Castro Valley.

Sponsored by the Association of Bay Area Governments, retrofit contractor Howard Cook (bayarearetrofit.com), and retrofit structural engineer Thor Matteson (shearwalls.com), this workshop will teach homeowners the basic components of a proper retrofit. Attendees will learn how to determine if any existing retrofit was done properly, how to evaluate contractor bids, and what resources are available to assist homeowners in paying for retrofits.

This retrofitting workshop focuses on a home's cripple wall, which is the wall between the home's foundation and first floor. It is most often a crawl space under the house, but may be a basement or garage. In older homes this wall needs to be strengthened and bolted to the foundation and floor above to prevent collapse or sliding off the foundation in an earthquake.

For more information and to register in advance, call workshop host Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator at 510/464-7951.

*Founded in 1961, ABAG is the official regional planning agency for the nine counties and 101 cities and towns of the Bay Area and is recognized as the first council of governments in California.*