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**WESTERN STATES SEISMIC POLICY COUNCIL (WSSPC) HONORS
WALTER J. ARABASZ WITH 2008 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN
EARTHQUAKE RISK REDUCTION**

Sacramento, March 31, 2008 -- The Western States Seismic Policy Council is pleased to announce that Walter J. Arabasz, Director of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations, is the recipient of its 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award in Earthquake Risk Reduction.

The award will be presented at the 2008 National Earthquake Conference in Seattle, Washington, at the Awards in Excellence Luncheon on April 24, 2008.

WSSPC created the award to recognize outstanding leaders in earthquake risk reduction. This person will have demonstrated throughout his or her career an extraordinary commitment, level of service, and contribution to the application of earthquake risk reduction to public policy.

As Director of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations, Walter Arabasz has expanded the capability of the stations to include real-time monitoring and notification and recording of strong earthquake motions for engineering and response purposes. He took the lead in obtaining federal funding to develop and implement a real-time earthquake reporting system that would be in place for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

In addition, Walter has led the expansion and integration of earthquake monitoring nationwide. He has been a leader in forming the concept, in the development, and in the implementation of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS). For over a decade he has promoted a cooperative, national approach to earthquake monitoring in which regional and national interests, State and Federal programs, work together for their mutual benefit for increased public safety in earthquakes nationwide.

Walter has been actively involved, generally in a leadership role, in the progression of earthquake-related advisory groups in Utah from the Utah Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations Earthquake Task Force (1989-1991) to the Utah Earthquake Advisory Board (1991-1994) and finally the Utah Seismic Safety Commission (1994-present; Chair 1997-2001). These groups all advocated and promoted a broad earthquake awareness and loss-reduction program in Utah, and Walter, as the common denominator in all, is responsible for much of their progress toward that end. Walter Arabasz has been, and continues to be, an effective communicator of earthquake risk to the people of Utah and their elected and appointed officials.

In 2007 Arabasz was appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction, and received the John Wesley Powell Award of the U. S. Geological Survey in recognition of his "outstanding scientific leadership in helping the public and elected officials understand and reduce the impact of earthquakes".

Walter Arabasz is only the fifth recipient of the WSSPC Lifetime Achievement Award. Previous winners were James F. Davis (2003), Lloyd Cluff (2006), Christopher Rojahn (2006), and Richard K. Eisner (2007).

For a background summary of Walter Arabasz, please go to the Western States Seismic Policy Council website: www.wsspc.org/Awards/2008/Arabasz_summary.pdf.

Western States Seismic Policy Council is a non-profit earthquake consortium located at 801 K Street, Suite 1436, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-444-6816, www.wsspc.org.

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