



## First Building in San Francisco Receives US Resiliency Council Rating

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 7, 2018)—The US Resiliency Council (USRC) announced today that it has awarded a Gold Rating to the new five-story office building in San Francisco’s South of Market (SOMA) neighborhood at 85 Bluxome Street. In response to growing community concerns about resilience, the USRC has established a [rating system](#) to evaluate the performance of buildings in response to earthquakes. The USRC rates buildings on three important metrics: [safety, damage, and recovery](#), and provides a one- to five-star rating for each that can be easily understood by the public. The Gold Rating for 85 Bluxome was awarded for achieving five stars for safety and four stars for both damage and recovery, which indicates a higher expected performance compared to current building code requirements. The steel-framed building was developed by Bluxome Partners, LLC, designed by RIM Architects and ZFA Structural Engineers, and constructed by BCCI Construction Company. The building was completed in 2016.



Understanding a building’s expected performance in response to a disaster has long been largely the purview of design professionals and city officials. “Significant effort and funding is needed to improve the Bay Area’s infrastructure and resilience,” remarks Mark Moore, Executive Principal at ZFA Structural Engineers and the structural engineer of record for 85 Bluxome. “The USRC rating at 85 Bluxome is a long-awaited first step in increasing transparency so that people can be aware of the very real risks that are present in this region.”

Raising public awareness is a difficult challenge, as much of the information needed to understand building performance is complex and requires specialized knowledge. The USRC communicates through a consistent, objective rating system that describes building performance in simple, straightforward terms. Dr. Lucile Jones, former Science Advisor to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, described the USRC Rating System as “credible, consistent, and transparent” and noted that it “make[s] a better foundation for critical decisions.” With a USRC Gold Rating, the building owners, tenants, and guests of 85 Bluxome can better understand the performance that is expected after an earthquake and make informed decisions about the time and money they spend there.

Scientists predict a [72% chance](#) of a major earthquake striking the Bay Area in the next 30 years. San Francisco has taken action to address earthquake resilience on multiple fronts, most recently releasing a [report](#) recommending that the City Department of Building Inspection consider establishing design standards for new buildings so that they can recover and become habitable after a major earthquake. 85 Bluxome Street shows that this standard can be met now, without significant impacts on cost and schedule. Evan Reis, Executive Director of the US Resiliency Council, notes that, “To create truly sustainable communities, our buildings must not only have a low impact on the environment, but the environment must have a low impact on our buildings. 85 Bluxome Street, which was awarded USRC and LEED Gold Ratings, achieves both.”

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Links:

1. <http://usrc.org/building-rating-system>
2. <http://usrc.org/rating-definitions>
3. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2016/3020/fs20163020.pdf>
4. [http://onesanfrancisco.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Tall%20Buildings%20Safety%20Strategy%20-%20CEC%20-%2010.02.18\\_forDIGITAL.pdf](http://onesanfrancisco.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Tall%20Buildings%20Safety%20Strategy%20-%20CEC%20-%2010.02.18_forDIGITAL.pdf)