

assembling the damage database in the months following the earthquake and continues to be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the data at this time. This database is primarily based on the results of earthquake damage inspections made by local building and safety departments in the study area. In addition to information about the extent of damage sustained by buildings as a result of the earthquake, the database includes information on the general characteristics of the inspected buildings (e.g., date and type of construction). OES staff have also merged other building level data from files prepared by the County Assessor.

- *Applications For Assistance To Repair Earthquake Damage.* The study will also use datasets maintained by federal, state and local agencies that record owner applications for financial assistance to repair earthquake damage. These data sources include FEMA's comprehensive dataset with information about relief applicants, the SBA's dataset regarding applications for aid, and data describing applications to HUD's HELP Program. Datasets describing state and local programs will be collected and utilized to the extent such these sources can be identified and obtained. Together these datasets can provide a comprehensive profile of participation in government assistance programs by owners of damaged apartment buildings.

A.6 Minimizing the Burden to Small Businesses and Other Small Entities.

This study's major research objectives necessitate collection of first-hand information about the experiences, intentions, and motivation of owners of properties damaged by the earthquake. Having said that, as discussed in item A.3, the use of a CATI system minimizes the burden associated with the means of administering the study's three telephone surveys. To minimize the burden for individual case study respondents, every attempt will be made to minimize overlap between case study and telephone survey samples.

A.7 Consequences of Less Frequent Data Collection.

As noted above, the project includes an initial data collection phase during which a telephone survey and case studies will be conducted, and two follow-on telephone surveys--the monitoring survey approximately 4 months after the initial data collection phase, and a follow-up survey about 4 months after that.

The study's follow-on surveys are important because of uncertainty about the earthquake's *long-term* impact on the low-income segment of the Los Angeles rental housing market. In the absence of any previous studies of this issue, it is unclear whether property owners will adhere to their initial decisions about reconstruction, or for that matter whether reconstruction plans will actually be carried out. For instance, initial support for reconstruction may be undermined by problems associated with financing improvements. Therefore, the *potential* consequence of not conducting the project's two follow-on surveys would be to provide an inaccurate description of the earthquake's impact.