

## **When Life Safety Is Not Enough**

By Dr. Lucy Jones

The building code has evolved from the principle that the role of government is to ensure the safety of its citizens while allowing building owners and investors to determine for themselves what investments they want to make in a building. However, several recent earthquakes have shown that a damaged building has consequences for many people beyond the owner. A major effort in Los Angeles to improve the City's resilience to future earthquakes has focused on the economic impact of long term disruptions to infrastructure and the building stock. This has brought to light that many owners and officials do not know the building code objective is only life safety, and when they do understand this, they want to higher standard.