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UCSC joins earthquake research

UC-Santa Cruz is one of eight universities who will be participating in a multi-million dollar Southern California Earthquake Center established today.

The center, formed by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey, will be located at the University of Southern California.

The federal government is pledging more than \$5 million for the center's first year of operation. The research program is expected to last at least five years and possibly as long as 11 years.

Researchers at the center will examine 30 years of research and will conduct new investigations in

an attempt to form a national consensus on the seismic hazards threatening Southern California. The greater Los Angeles region, scientists believe, is the region of the country where earthquakes pose the greatest risk to lives and property.

Karen McNally, director of the Charles F. Richter Seismological Lab at UC-Santa Cruz and a member of the center's executive committee, said this morning that one of the center's objectives "is to understand more about when and where the next large earthquake will strike in southern California and what the consequences will be."

In addition to USC, the USGS

and UCSC, the main institutions participating in the center are Caltech, UCLA, UC-Santa Barbara, UC-San Diego and Columbia University.

Thomas Henyey, executive director of the earthquake center and chairman of USC's department of geological sciences, said scientists working through the center "want to know where, when and how the next quake will strike, so public officials can set up emergency response programs.

"Second, we want to be able to determine the level of shaking at a particular site so engineers can design better structures to withstand the damage."