

Around the clock clean-up for train spill

By TARMO HANNULA

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF WRITER

LA SELVA BEACH — Work crews feverishly tried to clear the railroad tracks at La Selva Beach Tuesday where three Union Pacific coal cars, loaded with about 100 tons of coal, slipped and toppled behind 1254 San Andreas Road Monday afternoon.

A derailment work crew from JimCo of Tracy worked through the night with about eight pieces of heavy equipment and a chain of about 15 tractor-trailer dump trucks unloading the coal from the toppled railroad cars.

One official from Union Pacific, who chose not to be identified, said the mess might be cleared in a day.

"We've always liked being by the tracks and seeing the train go by," said Chris Lopes, who owns the property that flanks the accident. "But I think this is more excitement than we really need." A large portion of Lopes' one-third-acre of property has been transformed into a muddy, trampled construction site. "They said they



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A back hoe operator scoops the coal out of one of three railroad cars that came off the tracks Monday afternoon behind 1254 San Andreas Road.

would straighten all this up when they're done," Lopes said.

There were no injuries reported in the accident.

Several hundred yards of San

Andreas Road, near the accident site, are being used as an impromptu staging area for a continuous string of dump trucks that are hauling the coal out of the area.

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
January 19, 1999

APLOS, CA 95005