

Earthquake - 1989 - PAS Santa Cruz Co.

# PacBell donates \$86,000 for long-term earthquake relief

A PacBell official announced that the company's parent corporation, Pacific Telesis, plans to give \$86,000 in earthquake-related grants to four Santa Cruz County agencies.

Salud Para La Gente is to receive \$35,000, to fund a licensed mental health practitioner for six months. Senior Network Services will receive \$20,000 to provide professional "counseling" services to 2,000 elderly people. Both grants will be used to counsel people having emotional difficulties because of the earthquake.

The Greater Santa Cruz County Community Foundation will receive \$25,000 to provide umbrella funding for multiple Santa Cruz County agencies affected by the earthquake.

The Valley Resource Center is

receiving \$6,000 to fund and coordinate housing and health services for 5,000 people in the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Lorenzo Valley.

Jim Bower, PacBell manager for the Central Coast, said he choose the agencies based on his experience of what was needed in the area after the quake. A lot of the people he talked to in the shelters were traumatized by going into a building, he said, which gave him the idea that some sort of mental health care was needed in the area. He said he talked to Salud's director, Barbara Garcia, and programs manager Richard Miranda, who said they had long wanted a mental health practitioner on staff.

Bower said he was also aware that the older people in Santa Cruz were also traumatized by

the quake, and that the Valley Resource Center had requested \$6,000 to help with displaced residents there. PacBell also decided to donate funds to the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, which disburses funds to other local organizations, after receiving "many, many other requests."

Earlier, PacBell donated \$200,000 to Red Cross, \$75,000 to the Salvation Army, \$5,000 to the Second Harvest Food Bank and \$15,000 to the Pajaro Valley Shelter Services. Bower said the company considered that money "short-term relief" and the \$86,000 "long-term relief."

Bower said that the funds were coming out of the shareholder's dividends, and are not being financed by rate payers.