

VCF Earthquake 1189 - Watsonville - rebuilding

Earthquake-relief donations accounted for

By BOB SMITH
STAFF WRITER

RP
9/23/92

After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed or damaged millions of dollars in property in Watsonville, the city received donations totalling \$1,252,395 from individuals, groups and companies.

Over the last three years, the city has been quietly disbursing the money to families and groups who sustained earthquake damage to their homes or businesses and couldn't qualify for federal or state assistance.

Last night, the final accounting was made to the Watsonville City Council by Assistant City Manager Gary Smith.

Approximately 20 percent of the applications for relief funds were denied because they didn't fall within the policy set up by the City Council.

Four city staff members and Councilman Parr Eaves formed a committee to screen the requests.

The allocations included:

- Residential repair costs**
- 79 claims \$820,633
- Allied Vets Council**
- Repair its damaged Beach Street shelter \$14,650
- Bear ULI Report**
- A downtown recovery plan indicating the type of reconstruction that would work best \$3,500
- Community Action Board**
- Support for earthquake victims'

- personal needs \$7,000
- Chamber of Commerce**
- Partial payment for temporary modular units for businesses at Second and Main streets \$14,889
- Community Disaster Plan**
- Special city grant \$50,000
- Pajaro Valley Shelter Services**
- Personal support for earthquake victims \$20,000
- Housing repair \$19,104
- Housing Authority**
- Grant for low-income housing on Atkinson Lane \$211,007
- Interfaith Shelter**
- Earthquake housing \$5,100
- Salvation Army**
- Personal care of earthquake victims \$6,525
- Woman's Club**

- Earthquake repairs \$7,000
- Watsonville Senior Center**
- Minor repairs \$150
- YMCA**
- Facility repairs \$50,000
- TOTAL ALLOCATED**
- \$1,229,558**
- Holding for allocation \$22,837
- TOTAL \$1,252,395**

Smith said the remaining funds are being held for two projects. A resident has required \$10,000 for housing repairs and the Chamber of Commerce estimates that there will be \$30,000 to \$40,000 in unfunded repairs to its offices. Both claims have been accepted as the final claims to be evaluated by the city committee, Smith said.