

EARTHQUAKE '89 - Summit
rebuilding

Summit owners vow fight

11-29-89

By MARIA GAURA
Sentinel staff writer

SUMMIT. — Frustrated by the county's refusal to let them repair their homes, over 100 Summit area residents vowed to take legal action Tuesday night, and wrote out \$100 checks to prove it.

An evening meeting of the Villa (del Monte) Emergency Homeowners Association drew a determined crowd of nearly 150 people to the Loma Prieta Community Center. The group unanimously voted to chip in \$100 per household to begin what many fear will be a long-drawn out fight with the the Board of Supervisors and

the county Planning Department.

The voluntary donations, which could add up to more than \$10,000, will be used to hire an attorney to represent Summit residents in their struggle against Planning Department policies they feel could wipe out their community.

Another community meeting, including County Supervisor Jan Beautz, county geologists and planning department staff, is set for 7 p.m. tonight at the community center. The center is located behind C.T. English Middle School on Summit Road.

At the root of the growing mili-
Please see SUMMIT — A12

Summit/ County accused by residents

Continued from Page A1

tancy among mountain area residents is a controversial county policy that prevents owners of many earthquake-damaged homes in mountain neighborhoods from repairing their buildings. The county will not issue repair permits for many homes in "areas of critical concern" until a large-scale geological study is completed - which geologists warn could take years.

The largest single "area of critical concern" encompasses over 100 upscale homes in the Villa del Monte subdivision. Geologists believe Villa del Monte was built atop an ancient landslide, and they think the slide may have been shaken loose by the Oct. 17 earthquake.

Villa residents want a geological study of their neighborhood, but many fear the county's environmentalist majority will use the study as an excuse to condemn

large portions of the mountain community.

"It is my personal opinion that we are dealing with people whose primary interest is in seeing that our whole mountain is turned into a greenbelt park area," said area resident Ed Weldon in an open letter distributed at the meeting.

"The obvious way to accomplish this is to use the permit and planning process as a tool to destroy property values so our land can be purchased at bargain prices a few years from now," he added.

Weldon's fears were echoed by a number of speakers at the meeting who cited County Supervisor Gary Patton's longstanding opposition to development in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The group discussed the county's condemnation of homes in the Love Creek area of Ben Lomond as a worst-case scenario of what might be in store for their area.