

Aptos Village shops may survive

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APTOS -- A block-long portion of historic Aptos Village can be saved from the wrecker's ball, according to a geologic report from the county.

Second (Aptos) District Supervisor Robley Levy met Tuesday with three owners and numerous tenants of the earthquake-damaged portion of downtown Aptos. She said she was "pleasantly surprised" at the good news.

According to Levy, the three owners of the 12 businesses will now be allowed to "rebuild or stabilize" their buildings instead of demolishing them.

"They are already gathering specific geologic information on what needs to be done," she said. "It's in their court now."

The county will expedite plans for repairs, Levy said, and has already assigned a planner to work specifically with the owners. While it is unknown when repairs might begin, all parties are vowing to cooperate.

The buildings, which remain teetering on damaged piers over the deep ravine of Aptos Creek, are owned by 100-year-old Paul Johnston of Aptos, Jim Broadwell and Aptos attorney Robert Anderson.

Architect Richard Peterson, who has been hired by Anderson, called the news "absolutely great."

"It may turn out that one or two of the buildings might have to come down, but nobody is being told they cannot replace them. Everyone wants to maintain the general character of the village."

That particular portion of Aptos Village, located across the street from the historic Bayview Hotel, features western-style wooden

walkways, wooden buildings and porch-like overhangs. Levy called it "the heart of Aptos."

The worst damage is to the northern portion of the block. Aptos Village Market, Village Garage and Colonial Barber have been red-tagged by the county. Red tags means occupants are not allowed to go in for any reason.

Yellow-tagged businesses, in which occupants have limited access to retrieve items, include Lorraine Bruce Interior Design, Cafe Sparrow, Goldspink Architects, Robert Anderson Law Offices, Monterey Bay Business Advisers, Hanna and Associates Appraisers, Pacific West Realty, Kearney Photography and Richard Peterson Architects.