

## Quake aftermath

# No reason for 'Loma Prieta' quake moniker

By TOM LONG  
Sentinel staff writer

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LOMA PRIETA — The 7.1 earthquake that shook and shattered much of northern California on Oct. 17 did not start here.

So why is it being called the Loma Prieta earthquake?

"Some individual who happened to be in the right place at the right

time named it that," said UCSC Earth Sciences Professor and earthquake expert Karen McNally. And McNally wishes whoever that was, hadn't.

"Since before the earthquake occurred this segment of the fault was called the Santa Cruz Mountains fault, so we feel it should be called the Santa Cruz Mountains Earthquake," McNally said.

At first, geologists thought the quake was centered near this mountain's peak, thus the Loma Prieta Earthquake was born.

But within two weeks scientists had decided the actual epicenter of the quake was in Nisene Marks State Park, above Aptos.

"Why not change it to the Nisene Marks Earthquake then?" asked McNally.

She was just kidding.

McNally and many others think that since the quake happened along the Santa Cruz Mountains Fault which runs through the Santa Cruz Mountains, which are mostly in Santa Cruz County, home of the city of Santa Cruz, it should properly be called the Santa Cruz Mountains Earthquake. And she's going to do everything she can to have the moniker changed.



**Karen McNally**  
'Santa Cruz Mountains' quake



The Associated Press

Quake damage was extensive — here it collapsed the Boardwalk bandstand.