

1/22/82 Sentinel

## **Disaster Information**

### *Tax Relief Eligibility*

Taxpayers in disaster areas may be eligible for property, sales and use tax relief, according to William M. Bennet, chairman of the State Board of Equalization.

County boards of supervisors may permit county assessors by ordinance to recognize loss in value resulting from calamities. Where such an ordinance exists, a 1981-82 property tax assessment must be reduced when a claim is filed with the assessor within the time specified. For further information, contact the county assessor.

Taxpayers prevented by the disaster from making sales and use tax payments on time can be granted up to a 30-day extension. To obtain an extension, the taxpayer should include a statement to that effect with the tax return, and request an extension within the 30-day period.

The customary 1 percent per month interest charge for being late will apply unless the taxpayer files a statement with the board, under penalty of perjury, requesting relief from the interest and explaining the reasons for which the relief is requested.

Alcoholic beverage licensees who lost large amounts of merchandise in the storm may claim a refund of state excise taxes paid on such merchandise, as provided in Regulation 2553. Copies of the regulation are available at all tax board offices.

Excise tax refund claims may be filed with the State Board of Equalization Excise Tax Unit, P.O. Box 1799, Sacramento, 95808.

### *Home-Delivered Meals*

Home-delivered meals are available daily throughout the county to persons affected by the Jan. 4 storm.

One meal a day will be delivered at lunch time. The emergency program will end Wednesday.

For further information, call the Visiting Nurses Association, 475-9577.

### *Aid For Senior Citizens*

Senior Information & Referral's service has been supplemented for the duration of Federal Emergency coverage in Santa Cruz County.

During the first week of the storm, 51 seniors were contacted in person or by phone. The need for drugs, transportation, food clothing and evacuations, were met.

Needy senior citizens are urged to call 462-1433.

### *Special Disaster Rate*

Property owners whose homes were damaged in the recent storm may save up to 50 percent of the cost of title insurance required by lenders for financing home rebuilding.

First American Title Insurance Co. is offering a special disaster rate to storm victims who need title insurance. In addition, the company will aid in obtaining copies of documents relating to property ownership, such as title insurance policies and deeds lost in the disaster. The service is free.

Those wishing to apply for this help may do so at First American's Santa Cruz office, 330 Soquel Ave.