

# Churches donate to Felton Grove

FELTON — The county Association of Churches has given \$20,000 to the residents of Felton Grove to help fix their roads.

The closeknit, riverside community of 50 homes — once a summer resort in days gone by — was devastated last January by tons of mud flowing with the floodwaters in the San Lorenzo River valley.

It took months to dig out the neighborhood where mud was six-feet deep.

Residents still need another \$10,000 to \$15,000 by April 15, which they will seek through donations, said residents' spokesman Ramona Burgdorf. She expects each household to donate \$100 apiece.

"I've got to pound on doors and stick my hand out there and jump up and down and get it and I'm getting it little by little, but most of the people here are low or middle income, and the middle incomes are getting lower," said Burgdorf.

A new road won't be much good, however, if drainage problems in the Graham Hill/Felton Faire area are not fixed.

Felton Grove — a low spot on the valley floor — collects runoff from the higher elevations.

The churches' disaster relief committee gave the money for engineers drainage plans on the condition the plans be approved by the county and implemented.

The county has had a plan for fixing the drainage problems, but there has been past disagreement over whose responsibility is the water runoff — the county's or the residents'.

"The county's half of the water is still coming over the road," said Burgdorf.

Burgdorf maintained the county "sends people out to look at the road when it doesn't rain. How can they tell?"

Burgdorf said residents "won't give up until something truly effective is done on Graham Hill Road."

Donations may be sent to Felton Grove Road Disaster Fund, care of Mildred Aron, 450 River Road, Felton, 95018.