

Federal Housing Administrator Summarizes Help Available For Victims Of 'Christmas Flood'

J. Justin Herman, the able regional head of Federal Housing and Home Finance administration operations on the west coast, has prepared a summary of the facilities his organization has available to persons whose homes were lost or damaged in the flood.

Further information may be obtained at the HHFA office on the second floor of the County bank building. Herman's summary follows:

He has received blanket authority from Administrator Albert M. Cole to employ the full resources of the agency in rendering assistance to communities and families suffering flood damage in northern California.

These resources, he said, are to be used in the emergency shelter of families, the restoration of homes and community facilities, as well as the redevelopment of communities to the end that they may be restored not in their old form but according to plans designed to prevent recurrence of this last week's disastrous destruction.

Technical personnel are on duty, emergency reconstruction headquarters have been established in the agency's offices in the Flood building in San Francisco, and crews are being organized to go into the stricken communities. The emergency assistance and reconstruction activities of the agency are geared to the overall control of federal aid coordinated by the Federal Civil Defense administration.

The Housing and Home Finance agency draws upon its constituent agencies in providing these services. These agencies include Federal Housing administration, Public Housing administration, Urban Renewal administration, Community Facilities administration and the Federal National Mortgage association.

The regional administrator announced that he was authorized to provide the following types of services as needed:

1. Temporary Housing

- (a) Over 3100 temporary war housing units are available through the Public Housing administration for family shelter at various points in the north and east bay.

2. Home Owner Relief and Repair and Replacement Assistance

- (a) The Federal Housing administration will authorize lenders to work out agreements with borrowers to suspend payments temporarily on FHA-insured home loans and on Title I repair and modernization loans made to flood sufferers.
- (b) Credit restrictions are to be lifted on FHA loan terms for disaster cases. This means FHA insured loans up to a full 30 years maturity, and the full authorized amount (95 per cent of the first \$9000 of value) for replacement housing for disaster victims.
- (c) FHA also has special disaster terms for FHA insured loans on low-cost homes for owners or tenants of hous-

ing destroyed or seriously damaged by flood. This means loans up to 100 per cent of value with no down payment for housing up to \$7000 per unit.

- (d) FHA Title I home modernization and repair insurance for loans up to \$2500 over a three-year term for the repair and restoration of damaged homes is made available in disaster areas.

- (e) Federal National Mortgage association, a bank dealing in FHA insured and VA loan guaranteed mortgages, is geared to make advance commitments to private lenders on such mortgages sought by owners or tenants of homes destroyed or seriously damaged in the disaster areas.

- (f) The Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit program committee in San Francisco is also alerted to procure mortgage capital for such loans.

3. Assistance to Communities

- (a) Non-interest bearing funds are immediately available through the Community Facilities administration to communities which need to start engineering or architectural work immediately for restoration or replacement of community facilities damaged or destroyed by floods.
- (b) The same agency has funds at hand for loans up to 40-year maturities to public bodies for the restoration or provision of essential public works, such as sewer and water or other necessary community facilities.
- (c) The Urban Renewal administration has in its redevelopment program the authority and funds to enable communities to plan and restore wrecked areas where housing is involved, with substantial federal contributions to the local costs.

4. General Assistance

- (a) Aside from these specialized forms of assistance, the agency has engineers, planners, housing and finance specialists available to work directly with the stricken communities.

Placer county derived its name from the numerous placer mines within its boundaries.

No mining, hunting or grazing of domestic livestock is permitted in national parks.

A

D A N T