

✓ of Earth quake 1989 - SC Co Rebuilding

Cities battling FEMA ^{RP} for quake repair funds _{5/8/90}

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — More than six months after the Oct. 17 earthquake, officials of three Northern California cities say they are still battling the Federal Emergency Management Agency for money they thought was already theirs.

Alameda County Supervisor Don Perata said FEMA is trying to avoid complying with an out-of-court settlement in which the agency promised to repair 2,200 rooms in quake-damaged residential hotels. Even a court order on April 18 has not moved the agency to action, he said.

The Legal Aid Society of Alameda County, whose lawsuit led to the settlement in February,

plans to seek stronger court action to enforce the order, lawyer Stephen Ronfeldt said. Legal Aid attorney Ken Zimmerman said FEMA seemed willing to pay for repairs to only 700 rooms.

FEMA regional director Lorri Jean said the settlement was never meant to cover the \$53 million in repairs officials in Santa Cruz, Oakland and San Francisco have requested.

Last month, Jean told a congressional panel FEMA did not have the authority to handle the permanent repairs that the Legal Aid lawyers say it has promised to fund.

FEMA officials said they would not change the deadline of July 15 for finishing the repairs.