

Trailers for quake victims ready tomorrow

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Tomorrow is opening day for the first trailer park built to house people displaced by the Oct. 17 earthquake.

Following an official ceremony set for 10 a.m. at the Crestview Drive and Atkinson Lane site, 12 families will begin moving into the double-wide mobile homes provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the coming days, families to fill the remaining 31 units will be settling

into the temporary housing project.

The trailers are provided by FEMA at no charge to eligible families for up to 18 months, the maximum length of time allowed by law.

Earthquake victims currently living at Callaghan Park, an unofficial tent village, and the Red Cross shelters at the National Guard Armory and the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, are among those expected to move in tomorrow.

Maria Luz Rojas, who along with her husband and five young children has been staying at the fairgrounds, is among those families moving into the Crestview park this weekend. She looks forward to the occasion, she said this morning.

"Now, we can live with more tranquility," she said in Spanish, balancing her crying 1-year-old child in her arms.

Although she made friends at the shelter, Rojas said her children have picked up illnesses,

such as earaches and have not always slept soundly.

She said she is particularly grateful that her family will be housed in the trailers in time for Christmas.

"That's what I wanted," she said.

Construction crews from the California Department of Transportation, Granite Construction Co. and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. for the past couple of weeks have

been working the land, which is fronted by the Santa Cruz County Courthouse annex. Site preparation is the responsibility of the state, and FEMA handled transportation duties, which entailed getting the units from Palo Pinto, Texas, to the staging in area in Fort Ord where they have awaited their call to duty.

An additional trailer site is being prepared at the St. Francis School grounds in Watsonville, where 33 units are to be placed. FEMA officials this morning said mobile homes for that location are scheduled to be moved from Fort Ord this weekend. A two-acre parcel located near the railroad tracks in Pajaro is also being developed as a temporary housing project. Twenty-two trailers are to be installed at the site, which is owned by Southern Pacific Transportation Co.

This morning, heavy equipment manned by construction crews weaved in and out of the parcel, which lies at Salinas and Lewis Roads. Progress was difficult to gauge, although it seems to be moving along, FEMA spokesman George Nelson said.

"Once they get started they move very fast," he said.

In addition, officials are reviewing a site on the UC-Santa Cruz campus and at the fairgrounds for more trailers.

REFERENCE

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
December 8, 1989