

EARTHQUAKE '89 - Santa Cruz County

Dumps cut fees for quake debris

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SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz city dump and one county dump have dropped gate fees for earthquake rubble, with some restrictions, officials announced.

Meanwhile, local masonry sellers say residents may be throwing away money as they fill up precious dump space with brick from their fallen chimneys.

Brick has been the largest chunk of trash at the city's Dimeo Road landfill since the city dropped gate fees in the wake of the earthquake, said landfill engineer Del Thomas.

Local firms that sell used brick say that people would be wise to save their used brick if at all possible and use their personal stash for a small home project.

Good-quality "old brick," which is much more valuable than new brick, commonly costs 50 to 63 cents per brick at local rookeries.

"I hate to see all that brick thrown away," said John Troutner, manager of Antolini's, one of several local masonry suppliers.

Antolini's will consider buying brick from homeowners who have a pile of 1,000 bricks or more, but in smaller amounts he recommended that homeowners hang on to their brick.

Graniterock construction company is not buying brick except from large-scale demolitions, general manager of building materials Dave Busch said.

Rick Santee, owner of Central Home Supply, said salvaged chimney brick is perfect for a walkway, patio, planter or barbeque pit.

But brick and other types of earthquake debris are being accepted by both the city dump at Dimeo Road and by one county landfill, Buena Vista.

The city has dropped gate fees on all dumping through Nov. 12, said Bill Lorentz of the city sanitation department.

The city landfill, located four miles north of Santa Cruz, off Highway 1 on Dimeo Road, is open only to residents of the city of Santa Cruz.

The city also rents out dumpsters of various sizes to residents with

large quantities of debris. Delivery and pickup of the dumpster is included.

The county Public Works Department announced that it is also dropping fees on certain trash at the Buena Vista County Landfill, 1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville. The San Lorenzo Valley county landfill is not dropping fees.

Buena Vista county landfill is only waiving fees for certain types of earthquake rubble if the debris has been sorted in advance into the following categories: wood waste; concrete with no re-bar or pipe; brick and ceramic tile; asphalt; and metal including pipe, wire and appliances.

These materials are being accepted free because they can be reused or recycled, instead of taking up valuable space in the county's space-short landfill, said county Public Works spokesman Brian Turpen.

If the material is not completely sorted, the county will charge the normal dumping fee of \$22 per ton, Turpen said.

That rate will also be charged for all other wastes and debris, including window glass, non-wood roofing, plumbing fixtures, carpet and tile.

Lorentz said the city is asking people not to put heavy quake debris, such as brick and concrete, into home garbage cans because the cans become too heavy for sanitation workers to lift. Residents should bring the heavy trash to the dump in loads, he said.

In addition, he said it's a "no-no" to put broken windows and mirrors in the garbage and recycling bags. Dangerous glass should be hauled carefully to the dump.

Asbestos and other toxic substances may not be dumped at either landfill, officials said. Asbestos must be removed from all debris entering the dumps.

For more information on how to sort debris and on how to properly handle and dispose of asbestos, call the County Public Works Department at 425-2133.

For more information on the city landfill, call the City Sanitation Department at 429-3666.