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# Rules for rebuilding may be amended

Mercury News Staff Report

Inconsistent application of standards for rebuilding earthquake-damaged homes in mountain areas may result in a loosening of rules when Santa Cruz County supervisors meet today.

When supervisors approved guidelines for repairs and rebuilding in the wake of the 1989 Loma Prieta quake, they stipulated that when permits are granted, the building would be on the same property, designed for the same use as the damaged building and that "it would not exceed the floor area, height or bulk" of the old building by more than 10 percent.

But, County Counsel Dwight Herr plans to tell supervisors today, the private firm hired to process applications for earthquake repair and rebuilding permits failed, in some instances, to adhere to the 10 percent limitation.

"Unfortunately . . . nine applications were accepted in error for reconstruction of houses which exceeded the 10 percent limitation contained in the moratorium ordinance," said Herr in a letter to supervisors. "Two building permits have actually been issued and construction commenced on the basis of such applications.

In order to offer equal treatment, Herr recommends that the board eliminate the 10 percent requirement.

