

1988 that hadn't been taking place (earlier)," he contended. "I don't have to stand here and defend the

funding for rape or incest cases, however, and has recently vetoed See BUSH page 9

President Bush gave himself generally high marks in his first year in office.

Emergency-housing plans attacked

By BOB SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A county proposal to open a temporary mobile home park behind the county courthouse annex on Freedom Boulevard for those left homeless by the earthquake is drawing fire from handicapped and senior-citizen residents of Independence Square.

Supervisors still hadn't decided at press time today whether to authorize the construction of the temporary mobile home park.

The county is also trying to get state permission to open part of the Buena Vista migrant farm labor camp to earthquake refugees.

A county task force recommended that the county and the cities of Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz and Watsonville cooperatively establish mobile home parks throughout the county that would be used for the mobile homes the Federal Emergency Management Agency is now bringing into central California for emergency housing.

Watsonville mayor wants answers to renters' queries

If a rental property has been designated safe for occupancy with a green tag, why can't the residents move back in?

Watsonville Mayor Betty Murphy said she's been asked that question several times in the last week and will try to get some answers from the city staff at today's City Council meeting.

Murphy said this morning she was approached at the "tent cities" at Ramsay Park last week and at Callaghan Park this weekend by people who said their homes were green-tagged after the earthquake, but the landlords wanted to make repairs before allowing the tenants to move

back in.

Murphy said she doesn't know how widespread the problem is, or what the city can do about it. She said none of the people she talked to indicated that landlords were keeping people out so they could raise rents.

The City Council meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Earlier today, City Manager John Radin was scheduled to meet with owners of two downtown buildings to determine whether the buildings will be torn down. Stew Kett, who owns the Stoesser Building in the 300 block, and representatives of the Odd Fellows were to meet with Radin.

The first site recommended by the task force was a 4.7-acre county-owned parcel between the

Freedom Boulevard annex and the 100-unit Independence Square complex.

Other sites in the Watsonville area that made it to the housing task force's "short list" of potential sites for mobile homes included:

- The future post office site in the 200 block of Main Street.,
- St. Francis School property on East Lake Avenue.
- Pinto Lake City Park.

In the Santa Cruz area, the task force is looking at a site on the UC-Santa Cruz campus.

The O'Neill Ranch on Old San Jose Road in Soquel is targeted as a site for the Midcounty, and Sky Park, the now closed airport owned by the city of Santa Cruz inside the city of Scotts Valley, could be a San Lorenzo Valley/Scotts Valley site.

"None of these site are free of problems," Luther Perry, chairman of the housing task force, told the Board of Supervisors this morning. "I can't say that anyone is completely happy with these sites - they represent compromises."

Former Watsonville Mayor Bill
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HOUSING

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Johnston, who represents the management agents for Independence Square, said both the managers and the residents at Independence Square are unhappy about the prospect of having 30 to 60 family-occupied mobile homes moved onto the county property next to their project.

"We strongly object to putting 30-60 mobile homes here. The stress on the Independence Square residents has been very great and the thought of having a family-type park next door is very disturbing," Johnston said.

Traffic is another problem.

Until recently, Independence Square residents have had almost exclusive use of Madison Street. Now, they are having to share the street with construction workers building a 31-home project next door.

"I don't understand why you can't use Crestview Avenue rather than Madison Street for ingress and egress," Johnston said.

Perry said the narrowness of the county-owned site and safety concerns dictate a single street in the park with access from both Madison and Crestview. Damage surveys show Watsonville was the hardest hit area of the county. About 7.8 percent of the city's housing was either destroyed or received major damage in the Oct. 17 earthquake. Another 12.5 percent of the housing was classified as having minor damage.

By comparison, less than one percent of the housing in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Capitola each was classified as destroyed or heavily damaged. In the unincorporated areas of the county, 4.3 percent of the housing was rendered uninhabitable and two percent received minor damage.

"In Watsonville," Perry told the supervisors, "the urgent problem of destroyed or heavily damaged housing is largely that those were used by low-income families. "We have lost eight dwellings for every unit that was available for rent before the earthquake."

The task force report estimated there are still about 3,100 people in the county who are homeless because of the earthquake. It said there are about 400 temporary housing units available in the South County-Watsonville area and about 350 in the Midcounty-North County areas.

Capitola Village Task Force