

Highway 9 Slide Continues To Move

Highways to 1999

Caltrans crews have managed to slow the slide which closed Highway 9 Saturday, but the earth continues to slip and pull apart both the roadway and three houses above it on the slide's edges.

Meanwhile, a slide on the San Andreas Fault in the foothills above Watsonville has developed and depending on how far the slide moves, it may endanger six houses, according to Salsipuedes Fire Capt. Jim Sauve,

County supervisors this morning released a list of 188 roads in the county damaged in the Jan. 3-5 storm, and 20 more sites where damage has occurred in subsequent storms.

The board said it would move to have the state of emergency extended to include this subsequent damage.

The Highway 9 slide this morn-

ing was "about like it was yesterday, with no dramatic changes," according to Caltrans Highway Superintendent Jim Walters.

Crews have installed several drains in the mountainside above the buckled and sunken roadway between Lakeview Drive and Glen Gary Road to relieve the water pressure.

"The movement has lessened," said Felton Fire Chief Mac McDonnell, "but I don't know and (Caltrans workers) admit they don't know if (the drains) will work or not."

Damage to the three houses above the highway "is considerably worse" than it was over the weekend, McDonnell said.

Crews will continue to sink drains into the hillside, Walker said.

The Watsonville slide, at the end of Peckham Road, is on graz-

ing land owned by D. and D. Ranch of San Jose.

The slide was noticed by the owners last month, Fire Captain Sauve said, and estimated it had moved some 50 feet from the fault line.

The area has had more than 40 inches of rain this season.

No roads are threatened by the slide. County geologists are scheduled to investigate it this afternoon.

In supervisor's chambers this morning, Supervisor Dan Forbus insisted the county come up with "a dollar figure on the damage" to the listed roads so voters would know before the June 8 election when Measure A — a proposal to tax unincorporated area residents to raise \$5 million — is voted on.

The Department of Public Works was directed to determine a damage estimate.

The board also agreed that on May 9, the press and public will tour damaged road sites to gain a sense of the amount of damage.

Forbus said also when the election is decided, the Public Works Department should be ready to proceed immediately because "people along Jarvis Road don't want to wait for three years."

County Public Works Director Don Porath said, however, he would have a "priority" list of repairs, and the most important repairs would top the list.

Roads that carry the most traffic and can be fixed most quickly will have priority, he said.

The measure extends over three years and work will be done throughout that time if Measure A passes, other supervisors reminded Forbus.