

# After the storm: time to rebuild

By JOHN McNICHOLAS

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The man and his wife sat in battered deck furniture in front of their beachfront home in Seascape. The waves broke through what was once the front room's wall of glass facing the sea, and the two watched somewhat ruefully as the seawater poured out their front door and puddled in seaweed and broken glass.

Asked what they would do next, they echoed the sentiments of nearly all the owners of the devastated million-dollar homes on Via Gaviota — "Rebuild," they said. "When you live by the ocean, you expect to get wet."

Residents along the coast had braced for another battering by waves and high tides Saturday morning, but somewhat calmer seas saved the majority of them from further destruction. A 6.7-foot high tide peaked at 10:56 a.m. and brought the ocean slapping at decks and through doorways, but the waves lacked the poun-

ding fury that wreaked havoc on oceanside property Thursday.

A two-story oceanfront home near Moran Lake, undermined by three days of hammering surf, tumbled into the ocean Saturday. Onlookers lined the road there, as they did everywhere else damage occurred.

Rain brought between one and two inches of rain across the county Friday night and Saturday, but no other damage was reported. Scattered showers are expected to continue through the weekend. National Weather Service forecasters in Redwood City say a "significant weather system" may arrive Tuesday. They predicted it most likely will not be as severe as last week's storms.

"It's off the coast of Japan right now," said Lead Forecaster Norm Hoffmann. "It's too soon to say what it will be when it reaches here — a lot can happen in four days."

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## State storm hit

LOS  
homes  
lates  
Sat

out of the battered shell that was once his home at 900 Via Gaviota

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

# Storm

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This morning's high tide of 6.2 will be the last of the more-than-six-foot tides which coupled with the storm to batter the coast.

Beach Drive, Potbelly Beach, Capitola, and Aptos, were the areas hit hardest here.

County officials Friday asked the state to declare an emergency area for the Santa Cruz County. An emergency official in Sacramento said Governor George Deukmejian was expected to make the proclamation Monday.

"We have the hard copy of the request (from Santa Cruz) here," said Bill Medigovich, chief of the law enforcement division of the state Office of Emergency Services. "It's just a matter of time to have it added to the proclamation. It's anticipated the governor will do so Monday."

Medigovich said nine other counties have requested, or been granted, an emergency declaration. They are San Mateo, San Benito, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

The declaration opens the way for federal disaster aid.

County assessment teams by Friday afternoon had put the week's damages here at more than \$12 million, said Fifth District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara.

Five homes had been totally destroyed, he said, and 91 damaged. Private personal structure losses are just under \$5.1 million, he said. Some \$5.5 million worth of land has been lost to the sea. Seawalls worth \$540,000 have been lost, assessors said.

Public property, including roads and sewers, in unincorporated areas suffered \$602,000 in damages.

In Capitola, officials set the losses at nearly \$1.3 million, and in the city of Santa Cruz, losses totaled \$305,000, county estimators say.

Not everyone agreed with those estimates.

On Via Gaviota in Seascape, 18 out of 20 expensive homes were devastated when storm-driven waves up to 20 feet high crashed through glass walls, battering tastefully-done interiors with redwood stumps and pier pilings.

Trucks hauled rock until 1 a.m. Saturday to shore up the seawall under the homes, and in a matter of hours, the sea

had used some of the rock to batter the homes further, and simply hauled much more of it away.

"At least half of the property here is completely destroyed," said Frank Lamoily, chief of security for Commonwealth, the private security company which patrols Seascape. "Roofs are caved in, floors are buckled up and walls have folded over. I can't speak with any authority — I've been a cop all my life — but it looks like there'll be more than \$5 million here to me."

Many of those homes are maintained as second or vacation homes, the owners said. If that is the case, they may not be eligible for federal help.

One county official familiar with last year's disaster said owners of vacation homes destroyed in the slides and floods were ineligible for federal disaster aid.

## 24Hr. Sea. Last Yr.

Aptos	1.2521.5526.19
Boulder Creek	2.2053.0658.04
Capitola	1.5724.5927.98
Graham Hill	1.5531.7036.80
Lompico	1.9055.6560.70
Natural Bridges	1.3020.0219.81
Rio Del Mar	1.4022.0527.57
Santa Cruz	1.7022.3426.22
Soquel	1.3524.5729.49