

Damage tally still growing; nears \$1 billion

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Building inspectors continue to tally up the damage from last Tuesday's big earthquake. The latest estimates show that Watsonville was the hardest-hit in terms of structural damage, although many of the estimates are preliminary.

Figures supplied by the county showed that damage to private and public structures in Watsonville exceeds \$90 million and total damage in Santa Cruz County is likely to surpass \$1 billion.

County officials said this morning that the rain, at times heavy, had not yet caused additional problems.

County government offices, as well as those in the cities of Capitola and Santa Cruz, were open this morning for business. The county's municipal and superior courts were open this morning.

County officials said this morning that 1,172 buildings had been inspected within the unincorporated area of the county.

Confirmed damage estimates on those buildings is now \$69 million.

Inspectors are using colored placards to indicate the status of inspected buildings. A green placard means the building is safe to enter. A yellow placard indicates the building may be used for limited occupancy with extreme caution. A red placard means the building is unsafe and should not be entered for any

reason.

Preliminary estimates of damage to public facilities, including costs for debris clearance and protective measures, have reached \$43.5 million.

Ten bridges have suffered major damage. The Pajaro River levee on the Watsonville side of the river is unusable, County Public Works Director Don Porath said this morning.

Total damage estimates for the unincorporated areas of the county have grown to \$125 million damage to public facilities and \$400 million damage to private structures.

Damage estimates for various areas of the county include:

● **Watsonville** — Dwellings, \$16 million; businesses, \$75 million. TOTAL: \$91 million.

● **Capitola** — Dwellings, \$8.5 million; mobile homes, \$500,000; businesses, \$1.5 million. TOTAL: \$10.5 million.

● **Scotts Valley** — TOTAL: \$10 million.

● **Santa Cruz** — Dwellings, \$11.5 million; businesses, \$23,260,437. TOTAL: \$34,760,437.

● **Unincorporated area** — Dwellings, \$52,184,360; businesses, \$13,919,640; other, \$2,934,250. TOTAL: \$69,038,250.

forecast

Heavy rain tonight with lows in the 50s. Rain likely tomorrow.

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