

much, according to one source who spoke with him at the White House afterward.

car's roof, the FBI said, was only a tear in its vinyl covering

target of a projectile, replied: "No, I couldn't tell that. It was just a big bang."

S.C. Sautmel

Robley Levy Asks Where Is State And U.S. Aid For The County?

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

In a state of emergency address this morning, Supervisors' Chairman Robley Levy said the county has done its best in dealing with the Jan. 4 storm disaster, but that its efforts have been hamstrung by "the policies and procedures" of the state and federal governments.

She said, "In the darkest days of January, the Board of Supervisors asked for the National Guard. We were denied that assistance although other counties were not.

"We asked for the help of the Army Corps of Engineers. We were denied.

"We asked for geological and hydrological reconnaissance experts. We were denied."

She said further that federal assistance to individuals who suffered in the floods and mudslides "raises many issues. Where are the emergency care packages alleged to be enroute four weeks after the disaster?"

"Where is the housing promised those made homeless by the disaster? FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has placed only 42 of 293 applications.

"Where are the disaster assistance loans? How many have been made and at what rate? (Foreign) Refugees to our county receive loans at 3 percent interest. Where are low interest loans for those American citizens made homeless, our neighbors who are now refugees in our midst?"

Levy told the board that by stretching the county Public Works Department to its limit and spending an additional \$1 million, the county has opened 44 of its 49 closed roads and four of its six broken bridges.

There remain at least 97 private roadways that are closed. FEMA has surveyed them and determined that 58 are eligible. They could be cleared for private access with the \$4,000 per household that FEMA presents.

The federal government demands that \$1,000 in local funds be put up in order to get the \$3,000 per liveable household that FEMA offers, and the county has to agree to be the lead agency - an action the board is expected to take today.

There are another 14 roadways that are eligible, but the cost will go beyond the \$4,000 per household.

Twenty-five of the roads are ineligible for help, FEMA states.

Supervisor Joe Cucchiara said a number of residents had been told they could dig out the roads to get access and then later be reimbursed by FEMA.

After a 30 minutes of dialogue with FEMA spokesman Paul Ward this morning, it was determined that those who went ahead on their own enterprise would have to have their applications reviewed "on a case by case" basis.

It appears, however, that FEMA money won't be paid retroactively.

Cucchiara responded, "They were told they could apply and they are now caught between a rock and a hard place. This has to continue to be negotiated and we should hammer on it until we win (the funding)."

Even with FEMA funding, local cost will be around \$600,000. Acting County Administrator George Newell said the state may pay around 50 percent of that.

The remainder will have to come from special districts set up in the neighborhoods or through road associations with slight additions to the tax roles.

County assessment of damages to public roads is \$22 million and of that the county is on the line for \$4.2 million.

Newell said the state has agreed to pay 60 percent of that, but the remainder is still beyond the county's means to fund.

The board agreed that further state and federal money has to be solicited.

The opening of Love Creek Road in the Ben Lomond area is scheduled to be completed this week, Newell said, but he was questioned by Supervisor Gary Patton

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as to the county's liability in opening a road through a hazardous area.

Newell said homeowners who use the road will be required to sign a "hold harmless" agreement with the county, that there will be a gate and lock with homeowners issued keys, and that in rainy weather "we will post a watch there," Newell said.

The discussion of disaster repair used up the entire morning session of the board and was expected to continue into the afternoon.

The board approved applying for a grant to clean up local streams and to allow the county's home rehabilitation fund to be used for some home loans to repair homes.

Levy claimed, "The citizens of Santa Cruz County, many of whom have suffered directly from the disaster, cannot be the sole source of restoration."

She ended, however, saying it appears the money will have to come from long term loans to the county or a "general tax, or reduction in services" within this county.