

# 8% of Watsonville dwellings damaged

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Eight percent of all the dwellings in Watsonville were seriously damaged or destroyed by the Oct. 17 earthquake, Santa Cruz County supervisors were told Tuesday.

While heavy damage or destruction to homes in the county's other three cities was about 1 percent — the same as the usual housing vacancy rates in those municipalities — damage in Watsonville was eight times that city's rate of available housing.

The alarming statistics were contained

## Low-income families hit hard by quake, report says

in a report presented to the board of supervisors by top county officials.

Luther Perry, head of the earthquake housing task force, said that like the other three cities, Watsonville usually has a 1 percent vacancy rate.

Not only were 8 percent of the dwellings in town made uninhabitable by the quake, Perry said, but a high percentage of the ruined homes occurred "in housing tradi-

tionally occupied by low-income families."

Four percent of the housing in the unincorporated portions of the county was either destroyed or severely damaged by the quake, according to Perry.

On a positive note, Perry reported that the first of at least eight "instant mobile home parks" may go up soon behind the

county's courthouse annex on Freedom Boulevard on the outskirts of Watsonville.

Perry said federal emergency officials have begun shipping 100 three-bedroom furnished mobile homes to Fort Ord, where they will be prepared for occupancy, then hauled to Santa Cruz County.

He said the instant trailer parks — which, under federal regulations, may operate for only 18 months — will not meet

all the usual regulations imposed for mobile home developments. But he pointed to the need for emergency housing as well as the 18-month limit on the parks as mitigating factors.

Four of the mobile home parks will be situated in the Watsonville area, he said, with one each in Santa Cruz, Capitola and Scotts Valley and one other in midcounty.

Perry told supervisors that the mobile homes are not only furnished but are stocked with dishes and linens.

He also said his task force is trying to

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minimize traffic problems in neighborhoods where the temporary mobile home parks will be located. But, he said, because of the emergency nature of the developments, not all neighborhood concerns will be met.

County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello told supervisors about the 12-bill earthquake package signed into law by Gov. George Deukmejian on Monday. She and

supervisors Gary Patton and Fred Keeley praised local legislators — state Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville, and Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Carmel — for introducing and getting support for a number of measures designed to help local government deal with the post-earthquake crisis.

Keeley, calling aid available through the 12 bills "a first bite of the apple," said local cities and counties will have to document

"unmet needs" before asking for further assistance when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

And Patton, praising legislators of both parties, blasted a few Assembly members he said had "a pathological view of what government is," who voted against earthquake relief and who suggested that the state "just tighten its belt" instead of raising taxes to pay for helping communities recover from the quake.