

EARTHQUAKE '89 - City of Santa Cruz Pavilions are set to rise downtown

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SANTA CRUZ — The Phoenix Pavilions are set to start rising Saturday.

Seven tents totaling nearly 37,000 feet have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive Friday. With luck, the tents will start going up the next day.

"Don't call them tents," said Barbara Wheat, who worked on the Downtown Association committee working to get temporary structures set up. "They are pavilions."

Fourteen or 15 businesses have indicated interest in leasing space, said Matt Farrell, the city staff person working on the project. Last week the city council gave \$20,000 to help erect the tents.

Businesses are scheduled to meet this

afternoon to begin signing leases, Wheat said.

Negotiations were held over the weekend with Sprung Instant Structures, the manufacturer, on the final costs, which are expected to be about \$300,000.

Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Stanford, said the federal Small Business Administration has agreed to guarantee private bank loans to help cover some of the initial costs. Until Monday it was believed SBA would not back such loans.

A combination of three groups, the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, the Downtown Association and the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce is leasing the seven tents. They will in turn sub-lease space to individual tenants.

Local labor officials are working on getting 100 laborers to erect the tents beginning Saturday in an operation

akin to an old-fashioned barn-raising, Farrell said.

The idea of tents off the mall first came up within days of the Oct. 17 earthquake, when Downtown Commission members William Rubel, Susan Groff and Mark Primack began circulating it. In the weeks since it has taken on a life of its own.

"I'm personally amazed at how quickly this moved along," Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt said Tuesday.

The goal is to have the tents up and open for business the day after Thanksgiving. Farrell said occupancy can begin Nov. 17. Lease payments will begin Nov. 20.

The cost should be about \$1.08 a square foot a month, Farrell said.

One 5,000-square-foot tent will be located in a parking lot behind Bookshop Santa Cruz on private and public

land. Two others, at 4,500 square feet each, will be behind the ID Building at Cedar and Locust streets. Another pair, at 4,800 square feet each, will be behind Pearl Alley Bistro at Cedar and Lincoln streets. Two more, at 6,500 square feet each, will be across Lincoln Street behind the START Clinic.

Much has yet to be done, including electrical and heating systems for the tents. Tenants will have to take care of interior improvements.

A potential problem for merchants is the loss of parking space downtown, because the tents will be set up in parking lots. Farrell said the two-story city parking structure between Church Street and Walnut Avenue, currently closed, will be open "as soon as possible after demolition on neighboring properties is complete." The parking structure itself is safe, he said.