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## President signs quake aid package

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — President Bush's signature Thursday added billions to help Northern California heal the wounds of a killer earthquake, as residents and businesses tear down what can't be fixed and look to the emotional salve of a World Series and Halloween.

Crews were starting to tear down some of the "red-tagged" buildings — those determined unsafe — and demolition went on at a 1¼-mile stretch of Interstate 880 in Oakland.

For the first time since the Oct. 17 quake, tolls were charged on the Golden Gate Bridge on Thursday, partly because an average of \$107,300 a day had been lost and partly because the free ride seemed to encourage driving at a time when officials are trying to persuade people to use public transportation.

The quake closed the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and parts of several highways, including a collapsed section of Interstate 880. While officials have reported record use of mass transit, commuter roads have been clogged daily.

Bush signed a \$3.45 billion disaster relief bill — most of which is for Northern California — just nine days after the 7.1 magnitude temblor rocked the area and called it a sign of nonpartisan compassion, but one California congressman predicted his delegation would be back, hat in hand, in the spring.

"We have done a little better than a down payment," said Democrat Vic Fazio. He said the current bill would help provide "some

sustenance, some security, and some comfort in their hour of need."

"Clearly his signing this bill shows he hasn't forgotten us and has continued to keep his eye on Northern California," San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos said. At a forum later, Agnos revealed Bush had sent a \$1,000 check for quake relief with instructions to keep the information from the media.

Agnos also gave the federal government an "A" for its response, and blamed the media for overblowing a public spat in which the mayor characterized Vice President Dan Quayle's visit the day after the quake as a publicity stunt.

Aid has come in many forms:

- The Red Cross has collected \$7 million.
- Costa Rica said Thursday it is sending 2,500 pounds of coffee beans to San Francisco, a city where just about every coffee shop has a cappuccino machine.
- Enough donated food has been stockpiled in Watsonville, a hard hit community south of San Francisco, to feed the whole city of 27,000 for two months, the Salvation Army said.

• And the 26 Major League baseball teams pledged \$1.4 million for relief from the quake — which caused an estimated \$7.1 billion in damage.

The third game of baseball's World Series is set for Friday in quake-damaged Candlestick Park, and ushers will carry flashlights just in case. Many say the game is a chance for the Bay area to show America it is recovering, and per-



Bush signs bill, with, from left, Reps. Nancy Pelosi, Tom Lantos, Leon Panetta, Sens. Alan Cranston and Rep. Barbara Boxer.

haps give a boost to the hobbled tourism industry.

"We Are the New Survivors," proclaims a headline in Thursday's San Francisco Chronicle, noting residents can now put their thumbs under their suspenders and be counted along with those who survived the great quake of 1906.

However slowly, the area is recovering, as are some of the victims.

Dockworker Buck Helm, rescued after four days in the rubble of I-880, remained in serious condition Thursday in Oakland's Highland General Hospital. But his kidney function has returned to normal, and he is conscious most of the time, said spokeswoman Pat Pino.

Six-year-old Julio Berumen and his sister Cathy, 8, were in good condition and improving, said Children's Hospital spokeswoman Diane

Lazzari. They lost their mother in the freeway collapse. About \$33,000 has been donated to a fund for them.

But police said six people remained unaccounted for, and the death toll held at 63, including 39 from the collapse of double-decked I-880. The search for more bodies was delayed because the road was too shaky.

Nearly 14,000 people were re-

ported homeless.

Landslides in the Santa Cruz Mountains have claimed 100 houses and severely damaged 300, with many more at risk if there's much rain ahead, officials said.

"I sit here at night and listen to rain pouring down. You hear things falling from the trees," said Debbie Newhall, whose hillside house in Lompico Canyon moved a couple of inches. "A big stick will come down and hit the roof. You're wondering if that'll be the straw that pushes the house down the hill."

People were offered a chance to talk about the quake at a forum Thursday night held by the Society for Traumatic Stress Students, which coincidentally began a meeting in San Francisco this week. The 500 experts called off their disaster drill, but offered to help victims of the real thing.

But people also looked for lighter relief. San Franciscans were set to start Halloween celebrations this weekend, when the forecast was for sun and temperatures into the mid-70s.

"It was rather somber for a while," said J.S. Gilbert, general manager of the 10th annual Exotic Erotic Halloween Ball, where 10,000 people are expected Saturday night. Some of the proceeds will go to quake relief.

"But the weekend is important in the sense that people are looking for a release, an opportunity to go out and enjoy themselves," he said Thursday. "There was a lot of camaraderie, a lot of good things that came out of the quake."