



SANTA CRUZ CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY



0 00 01 06205966

update

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS PROJECT
A project of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services

A Preliminary Assessment

Housing, Transportation Hardest Hit By Loma Prieta Earthquake

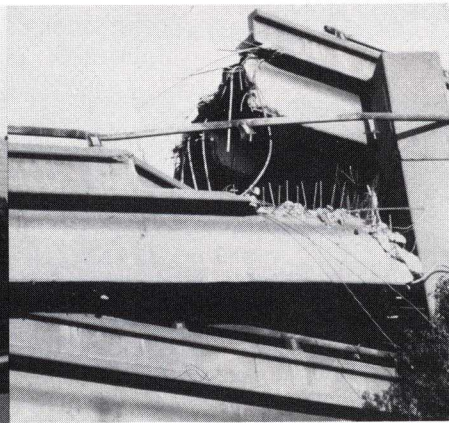
At 5:04 p.m. on October 17, 1989 a magnitude 7.1 earthquake began to shake the San Francisco Bay Area and surrounding communities. Fifteen seconds later, 61 persons had lost their lives and billions of dollars in damage had been sustained. The full impact of the earthquake was not immediately known, but it was obvious that its effects would have serious implications for the millions of persons who live in that region of California. Now, with relief efforts well underway, it is clear that two elements of the urban structure in the greater San Francisco Bay Area were hardest hit. The effects of the earthquake on transportation and housing are by far the most significant in terms of disruption to the area's livelihood.

Effects On Transportation

Damage to the Bay Bridge, the Nimitz Freeway (Interstate 880), and several other key arterials of the region's transportation system impaired mobility, impacting thousands of residents who might not have otherwise been directly affected by the earthquake.



Collapsed house in the San Francisco Marina District



Damage to I-880 (Nimitz Freeway)

The alternative modes of transportation available to the residents of the Bay Area proved to be a major factor in the management of the situation. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), which experienced little if any damage, was able to continue providing service and actually increased ridership significantly, as a result of the Bay Bridge closure.

Ferry service between Oakland and San Francisco was also restored and provided another means of transportation to those needing to make the daily commute across the bay. Without these options, the effects of the earthquake on the region's transportation system could have impacted mobility to a much greater extent. Nevertheless, it will be several months before the transportation system in the Bay Area is back in full operation.

Effects On Housing

Thousands of older buildings, mostly of unreinforced masonry and wood, were damaged by the earthquake and were immedi-

Continued on page 12

Lessons From Loma Prieta Earthquake for Southern California

The Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 17th and its impacts on northern California serve as a reminder of the devastating effects that this geological phenomenon can have on our communities. The limited damage experienced from this magnitude 7.1 earthquake also demonstrates how preparedness in California has made a difference in reducing loss of life and property damage. The overall lesson from this disaster is that while great strides have been made in reducing seis-

mic hazards in the state, much remains to be done in preparing for future large earthquakes that will inevitably occur in California.

In southern California, the challenge before us is to heed the lessons from the Loma Prieta Earthquake and apply what we learn. SCEPP's preliminary assessment of the disaster points out some key preparedness issues that we need to address in this region. These can be

grouped by the major elements of earthquake preparedness:

Mitigation

- Current efforts to inventory pre-1934 unreinforced masonry buildings and institute programs for reducing the hazards posed by these structures must be accelerated. In the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the Whittier Nar-

Continued on page 2