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WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1994

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The Washington Post
May 11, 1994

THE FEDERAL PAGE

Investigating a Would-Be Inspector

■ A bump in the road to filling an inspector general's job. **Betty Ann Soiefer**, counsel to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, is under consideration to be IG at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But Sen. **Charles E. Grassley** (R-Iowa), in an April 29 letter to Clinton, says the General Accounting Office "is investigating a matter that may involve Ms. Soiefer in which a whistleblower's confidentiality was allegedly compromised after disclosure of information to the Congress."

Grassley says he's not accusing Soiefer of any wrongdoing, but asks that "further consideration of her for this position be postponed" until the matter is resolved.

Soiefer says she "didn't violate any whistleblower's confidentiality" and that she's "just as concerned as Senator Grassley . . . that the rights of whistleblowers not be violated."

LOS ANGELES TIMES MAY 11 1994

LOS ANGELES B2

Deadline for Quake Aid Applications Extended

The deadline to apply for disaster assistance under the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake presidential declaration has been extended 60 days, to July 18.

Local, state and federal agencies are still receiving more than 1,600 assistance applications daily at earthquake service centers or by phone, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state Office of Emergency Services.

The deadline for the U.S. Small Business Administration's disaster loan program for individuals and businesses was also extended to July 18.

People not yet registered with FEMA for assistance may go to an earthquake service center or call (800) 462-9029, or (800) 462-7585 for the hearing- or speech-impaired.

People already registered who have questions may call (800) 525-0321, or (800) 660-8005 for the hearing- or speech-impaired.

LOS ANGELES TIMES MAY 1 1 1994

Damaged I-5 to Reopen Early, Officials Say

By VIRGINIA ELLIS A1
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO—Bringing another dose of relief to quake-weary Southern California commuters, officials said Tuesday that the reconstruction of two Interstate 5 bridges will be completed a month early, enabling the heavily traveled freeway to open to traffic next week.

Gov. Pete Wilson's office confirmed that southbound lanes of the Golden State Freeway will open first—probably on the morning of May 18—followed a day later by the opening of the northbound lanes, which have to wait for the removal of a detour before they can carry traffic.

"The governor feels that the I-5 Gavin Canyon project is a shining example of what happens when you combine top-notch engineers with an outstanding contractor and cut away the red tape," said Sean Walsh, a Wilson spokesman.

The contractor, under an incentive system, will receive a bonus of $4.5 million for completing the work early.

The opening of the freeway removes a bottleneck that has slowed traffic on the major north-south artery into Los Angeles since the Northridge earthquake knocked down two 80-foot-high bridges at Gavin Canyon. The bridge destruction forced state transportation officials to construct a detour from Gavin Canyon, located about 23 miles north of Downtown, to the I-5 interchange at the Antelope Valley Freeway, two miles away.

Connector ramps linking the two freeways at that interchange also

Please see BRIDGES, A14

were toppled in the Jan. 17 quake. Their reconstruction is not scheduled to be completed until late July.

The earthquake inflicted heavy damage on highways throughout the Los Angeles area, crippling segments of not only Interstate 5 but also the Santa Monica Freeway and the Simi Valley Freeway.

The Santa Monica Freeway last month became the first of the damaged freeways to reopen to traffic after contractors were able to complete reconstruction of two overpasses at Fairfax Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard a record 69 days ahead of schedule.

On Thursday, the first phase of the work on the Simi Valley Freeway overpasses at San Fernando Mission Boulevard and Bull Creek is expected to be completed. Traffic now being routed over the westbound lanes will be shifted to a newly constructed bridge on the eastbound lanes. The westbound lanes will then be closed so contractors can rebuild that section of the freeway.

Federal officials, who have provided almost all the financing for the rebuilding of quake-damaged freeways, said the speed with which construction has been completed demonstrates that government can mobilize in an emergency.

"Through innovative contracting, intergovernmental cooperation and the sweat and muscle of hundreds of construction workers, we're setting records bringing quake-damaged highways back on line," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena.

Describing Interstate 5 as the "commercial backbone of the state's economy," he said the bottleneck at Gavin Canyon has hampered the movement of agricultural and manufactured products from California's heartland to Los Angeles area ports and markets.

The announcement of the reopening is expected to be made jointly today by state and federal officials, who had earlier bickered over who would command the spotlight when the Santa Monica Freeway reopened.

> ■ QUAKE SAFETY
> Plan requiring gas valves that automatically shut off in a quake suffers a setback. B3

The early completion of the I-5 reconstruction is expected to renew criticism of the financial incentives given contractors to complete the work ahead of schedule. Each contractor has been offered a bonus for every day construction is completed early; they also have been threatened with a penalty for every day their projects are completed late.

C.C. Myers Inc., the construction company that rebuilt the Santa Monica bridges, earned a nearly $14 million bonus for finishing in less than three months.

E.L. Yeager Construction Co. of Riverside, the contractor for the Gavin Canyon bridges, will earn a $4.5-million bonus on top of the $14.8 million it bid for completing

1|2

the project. The bonus payment—$150,000 for every day the project is completed early—is based on the company's finishing the reconstruction 30 days before a June 17 deadline.

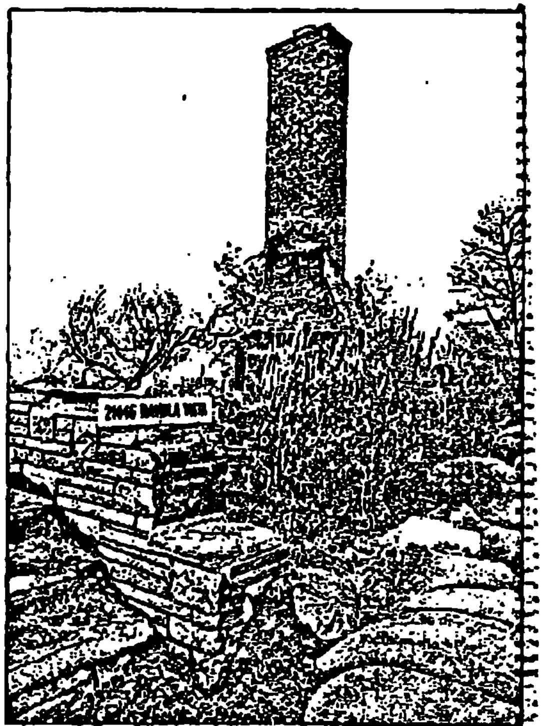
Doug Aaland, Yeager's chief engineer, said his company was able to complete the project more quickly than usual by working crews around the clock, seven days a week. "It was just a lot of working together between all parties," he said.

Officials at the California Department of Transportation said the new bridges have been built to much higher strength than the ones that collapsed in the Northridge quake.

Caltrans press secretary Jim Drago said they have been designed to withstand a 7.1-magnitude quake on the San Gabriel Fault, which at four miles away is the fault nearest the bridges.

While the Gavin Canyon bridges are designed not to collapse in an earthquake, Drago acknowledged that they have not been classified as "important" structures. That designation, reserved for bridges that carry emergency traffic, would have required that they be constructed so they would not sustain any damage that could put them out of service for a short period.

Drago said state engineers made several modifications to the design of the bridges while they were being constructed to add features that would enhance their ability to withstand earthquake forces.



Photos by Bob Riha Jr., Gamma-Liaison

FIRE AFTERMATH: Malibu resident James Courtemanche, at left, says he wakes up every day thankful that "the green is growing back." Above, a brick/stone skeleton is all that remains of a home on Rambla Vista after the November fire, which burned 20,000 acres and 350 homes.

The fire caused about $100,000 in damage to the home of photographer Kip Corley. He suggests that whoever is found guilty of setting the fire "should have to work in a (medical) burn center for the rest of their lives so they'll know what they did."

Roofer Ron Radstron says residents probably will never know who started the fire.

"Arson is real hard to prove," Radstron says. "We all know it was started by some idiot. Who, it doesn't really matter."

But it matters to Courtemanche. Two of his friends died in the fire, and he has seen too many lifelong friends move away since the smoke cleared.

"I guess if I talked to (the arsonists), I'd say, 'Good luck living with it,'" he says. "Whoever they are, they caused a lot of hard times, a lot of heartaches."

HOUSTON CHRONICLE MAY 1 1 1994

No clues to warning system failure

Cable workers replace unit

By KEVIN MORAN
Houston Chronicle A22

TEXAS CITY — There are no clues for the failure of a system designed to let authorities warn residents about dangerous industrial accidents over cable television channels, officials said Tuesday.

But cable workers replaced the electronic unit that makes the system work, to be sure it doesn't fail again, said Gary Pomonis, area business manager for Texas Cablevision Inc.

He said workers found no problem with the unit in place when Mayor Chuck Doyle and others tried Sunday to warn residents of an ammonia leak.

"It was working, but we're not sure if it malfunctioned or had some sort of problem that could come and go," Pomonis said.

Doyle said Monday the system failed when he punched in the code number that allows emergency officials to override the local cable transmission on all channels and warn viewing cable customers of an emergency.

Meanwhile, officials at Sterling Chemicals Inc., site of the leak, said about 3,000 pounds of ammonia escaped because a worker improperly used a valve that controls hot water flow to an ammonia vaporizer.

The leak caused hundreds to evacuate their homes.

Residents notified police of the ammonia vapors before company workers did.

More than 750 people showed up at Mainland Center Hospital's emergency room within 24 hours complaining of burning eyes, respiratory distress and other ailments.

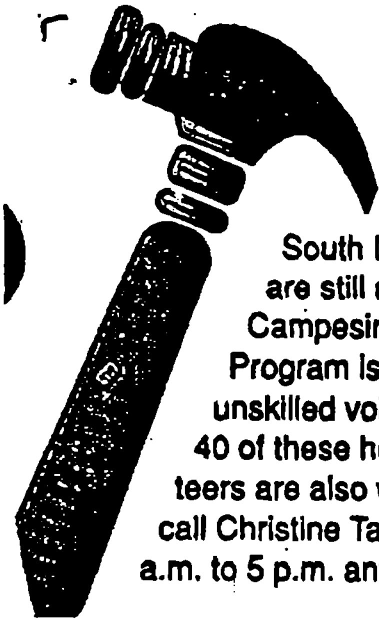
Robert W. Roten, Sterling's chief operating officer, said the company will begin taking residents' claims for medical bills and other damages by Friday.

Claims can be lodged at Stiffle-mire & Co. Insurance Adjusters, 1112 6th St. North.

Roten said city officials and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration representatives who examined the plant Tuesday agreed that the involved unit could be reactivated without danger.

The ammonia that leaked was being used to make acrylonitrile, which goes into a variety of products, including carpets and computers.

MIAMI HERALD MAY 11 1994



QUICK READ

It's been almost two years since Hurricane Andrew terrorized South Dade and many homes are still awaiting repair. Centro Campesino's Community Repair Program is looking for skilled and unskilled volunteers to help rebuild 40 of these homes. Corporate volunteers are also welcome. If you can help, call Christine Talcott at 245-7738 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. any day.

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20472

NEWS

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Release No.: 94-47

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May 10, 1994

MAJOR DISASTER DECLARED FOR MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton today declared a major disaster exists in Michigan as a result of damage to public property from a prolonged winter freeze that gripped the state's Upper and northern Lower Peninsulas starting January 10.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which will coordinate the federal relief effort, said the President's action makes federal funds available to supplement the recovery needs of affected local governments in the counties of Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Gogobic, Houghton, Mackinac, Marquette, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft.

Under the declaration, the federal government will pay 75 percent of the approved costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, with the remaining 25 percent to be provided by the state and affected local governments.

Witt, who designated the counties eligible for the assistance following the declaration, said federal requirements are being evaluated in other areas and additional designations may be made when the assessments are completed.

Gary Pierson, of FEMA's regional office in Chicago, Ill., was named by Witt to serve as the federal coordinating officer for the recovery. Pierson said that procedures for requesting assistance will be explained at local applicant briefings to be held shortly in the recovery area.

-30-

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ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH NOV 2 4 1993

Nation's Disaster Chief Vows Push For Changes In Flood Insurance

PA 5

By Phil Linsalata
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The nation's top disaster official said Wednesday he wants to overhaul the flood insurance program, which left fewer than one in 10 flood victims protected this summer.

"The program has got to change," said James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Witt was responding to articles in the Post-Dispatch Sunday that documented that the Federal Insurance Administration failed to protect flood victims, control construction in the flood plain and save tax dollars spent on disaster relief.

Witt said he wants to "express how critical it is to get some reforms in place." He said he needs new legislation to authorize a crackdown on mortgage lenders who fail to require insurance on homes in flood plains.

He also wants "mitigation insurance," a type of policy that would pay homeowners the cost of elevating their home after a flood. Federal estimates indicate that a surcharge of less than $50 on every policy could provide enough revenue to cover up to $25,000 in elevation costs for each affected house.

Both those measures were contained in a bill sponsored by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. The bill stalled earlier this month when it drew opposition because it contains a measure limiting construction in the riskiest beachfront areas. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., led the opposition. Many of his constituents live in beachfront areas.

Witt said he plans to call on Kerry and D'Amato in an effort to break the stalemate and win passage of reforms when Congress reconvenes in January.

Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., said he also wants to break the stalemate. He vowed to "take a leadership position" in trying to strike a compromise next year.

He proposed delaying a decision on the beachfront issue until the government can map the precise boundaries of the coastal erosion zones. He said it is unfair to postpone reforms needed in the Midwest while the coastal argument continues.

"We want to start again with new legislation as soon as Congress comes into session," he said. "We've got to get it done, and we're going to go back and make every effort."

Sen. John C. Danforth, R-Mo., also said he would support reforms. "I hope to be able to play a constructive role in this area next year," he said.

Witt, meanwhile, said he will begin assessing any changes he can make without congressional approval.

"We are going to be reviewing everything to see where we are and what we can do," he said.

Witt announced that he has nominated a new director of the Federal Insurance Administration. He has asked Congress to confirm Elaine McReynolds, insurance commissioner of Tennessee. McReynolds, 46, has been Tennessee's top insurance regulator since 1987. In that time, she has taken on tough fights with the state Legislature. Earlier this year, she blocked a measure that would have allowed insurance companies to raise rates without getting state permission.

KANSAS CITY STAR

NOV 24 1993

New flood-relief plan set

Agency would buy property under enhanced buyout plan.

By MIKE HENDRICKS
Agriculture Writer

P-A3

The Federal Emergency Management Agency soon will begin purchasing frequently flooded neighborhoods and entire towns under an enhanced buyout plan Congress approved over the weekend, agency director James Lee Witt said Tuesday in Kansas City.

The new flood-relief package would provide about $118 million in federal funds to buy out flood-prone properties, Witt said. Money will become available as soon as state disaster offices act on applications for the aid.

State emergency-management directors from Missouri, Kansas and Iowa met Tuesday with Witt and promised to act quickly on the requests.

"Priority will be given to those who've suffered the most," said Jerry Uhlmann, the Missouri director.

Six other states also will share the funds. The amount of buyout money could increase, as the program is tied to the level of other flood aid dispensed, said Morrie Goodman, director of public affairs for the federal agency.

More than 200 communities in the Midwest have expressed interest in a plan that would allow individual property owners and, in some cases, entire towns to move out of the flood plain.

Funding all the requests would cost $400 million, agency officials have estimated.

The new program provides 75 percent of the cost of buying out homeowners and businesses in flooded areas. State and local governments must provide the rest, but they can use other federal funds for that local share.

Land purchased under the program would then be converted into parks or other uses. No structures could be built, and the area would be ineligible for disaster aid in the future.

"It's going to save us tax dollars in the long term," Witt said.

Before Congress changed the buyout plan, the program provided only 50 percent of relocation costs and would have provided about $55 million in aid, Goodman said.

Rep. Harold Volkmer sponsored legislation changing the funding percentage, while Rep. Richard Gephardt proposed the change in the funding formula that boosted the money available. Both are Missouri Democrats.

"We hope it will go a long way," said Larry Zensinger, the agency official who will coordinate the buyout program.

COPING WITH DISASTERS

How victims of three U.S. catastrophes — the Great Flood of '93, Florida's Hurricane Andrew and the southern California fires — are dealing with the disasters as Thanksgiving nears:

FLOODS: For farmer, loss is like hole in heart

Richard Price
USA TODAY

P.9A

QUINCY, Ill. — This is a Thanksgiving story that needs a happy ending, and only one can provide it.

s name is Daryl Deuster-. He's a quiet, powerfully built farmer of 35 with a weath- face and rough hands who owns a home on 600 acres of Mississippi bottom land — a pretty stretch of corn fields shade trees passed down through three generations of his family.

He grew up there. It's the only home he's ever known, the only life he ever wanted. It's a huge part of who he is, he always figured he'd ass it on to one of his four that the farm was as eter- the river running by it.

But now it's gone. That same took it from him last July, ravaging his home, his barns, his hog sheds, the place next where his cousin lived, the house up the road where his grandmother gave him cookies. A world destroyed.

He can't ever get it back. The Federal Emergency Management Agency won't pay him to rebuild there, and he concedes he'd be foolish to try.

The land is so low it's still under water. "The river won," he concedes.

[redacted] like thousands of other victims of the great Midwest f of 1993, Deusterhaus (pronounced DO-stir-house) his family are wrestling this Thanksgiving with the fu- looking for a happy ending that feels a long way off.

He's had help from all over. From friends — one rented this house — and from f /. F strangers — he's calls f Cr York City, Dallas.

The Deusterhauses also were chosen for Project Home Again, an effort by local churches and the non-denominational Christian relief agency World Vision to assist flood victims. He'll get $2,000 and moral support from two families who "adopt" them.

Although the money won't make much of a dent in the $90,000 that the flood will cost Deusterhaus, that's not what's eating at him.

And no one is quite sure what to do about the real problem, which is the hole in Daryl Deusterhaus' heart — a hole that, so far, no amount of money, help or "adopting" can seem to patch.

That's a piece of surgery only he can perform.

He and his wife, Barb, are talking about buying a few acres on higher ground somewhere in the country. Building a house. Giving up the farm.

"I've got to do it," he says. "I can't live in the city. Can't live in the suburbs, either. It has to be the country."

But there's no enthusiasm in his voice. The truth is that Daryl Deusterhaus wonders if he can live *anywhere* besides that farm.

"I'm trying to be optimistic, but we've been here a long time," he says forlornly. He gazes across the ruin. "At night after dinner," he adds, talking mostly to himself, "I used to hop the tractor and plow a few acres. . . . It'll be strange not being able to do that."

"He just can't give it up," his wife sighs. "Daryl's heart is still on that farm."

She hurts for him, but she's frustrated. So is he. They're both still in shock. They keep going through pictures and videos of how it used to look.

They feel cramped by their rented home. They worry about the kids. Bret, 10, surprised his teacher the other day by scrawling "I miss my dogs" on a school paper (three of their four mutts are at other homes). Their lives are as scattered as their possessions, distributed among relatives.

"Just getting Christmas ornaments is a chore," she says. "I've got to run over here, go through everything, back and forth, this and that . . . Lord, what a horrible mess."

They're both exhausted. Daryl's working 18 hours a day sorting out all the relief paperwork and trying to keep a farm going — he has 600 hogs scattered on other farms — and Barb's been running between her job at a clothing store and shuttling the kids to school because she doesn't want them to have to transfer.

They're fighting. Everyone knows it. She keeps hammering him over his attachment to the farm, pushing for a decision. His temper flares. "She's got all the answers," he snaps at one point. "Let her answer the questions."

"It's a difficult thing," says the Rev. V. L. Amsler, pastor at the Faith Christian Center

continued

here, the Deusterhaus' sponsor in Project Home Again. "All you can do is give them hope, then pray it'll be enough."

Pausing, he adds self-critically, "Maybe I should have got this program going sooner."

But that wouldn't really have changed anything.

The people from World Vision fret over matters. Obadiah Smith Jr. and Steve King, the two men coordinating Project Home Again, leave the Deusterhaus home one night shaking their heads.

"He's hurtin'," Smith says. "How do you replace what he's lost?" King says. "They're still in it. They still haven't put the flood behind."

The families who adopted them aren't quite sure what to do, either. This isn't the sort of problem they can solve by doing the dishes or watching the kids. They sit at the Deusterhaus' table, talking gently, feeling their way.

"I think I can relate a little bit," says David Braun, 36, an accountant who lost a family home to a Texas hurricane when he was growing up. "But we were able to go in afterward and start over. He's lost a great deal more."

Daryl Deusterhaus appreciates the attention. "People caring, that means a lot," he says. "And I'm grateful no one got hurt in this flood. All my friends and family are healthy. That's important."

He'll genuinely be thankful for those things this Thanksgiving. But it's not enough for that happy ending, not nearly, not yet. And he knows it.

"I've got to move on," he says. "I've just got to." But then he pauses, and a faraway look fills his eyes. "I don't know," he says finally. "It's just a real hard thing."

LOS ANGELES TIMES NOV 24 1993

Aftermath of Fire Disaster

■ The people who live in hazardous areas are being subsidized by federal taxpayers through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This subsidy has to cease. Anyone has empathy for those that suffer casualties, but this should not equate to a subsidy. As long as programs such as FEMA exist, those persons will continue to expect and receive these subsidies. The role of FEMA must be redefined to provide only temporary relief for disaster victims.

If people wish to live in flood plains, quake areas, brush areas, etc., they should carry adequate insurance for these hazards. As long as the federal government, meaning the taxpayer, continues to subsidize them, they will not be responsible for themselves.

DOUGLAS R. HARRISON
Escondido

B6

New Charges Are Considered As California Fire Toll Rises

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 20 (AP) — A 98-year-old man who died of complications of smoke inhalation has become the fourth fatality of the recent wildfires in Southern California, and officials say they are reviewing the case against a man accused of setting the blaze.

The victim, Alfred Wagner, died on Nov. 9. The cause, Sgt. Rich Erickson of the Sheriff's Department said on Friday, was pneumonia related to smoke inhalation that Mr. Wagner suffered on Oct. 27 while fighting flames at his house in the Pasadena area.

Homicide investigators referred the case to the district attorney's office, which said on Friday that it had not decided whether new charges were warranted against a transient accused of setting the fire. New charges could include manslaughter, but prosecutors sent the case back to detectives for further investigation, said a spokesman for the office, Mike Botula.

The transient, Zhang Andres Huang, 35, has pleaded not guilty to starting an illegal fire, a misdemeanor. Prosecutors said he lit a campfire in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills above Altadena that grew into the fire that destroyed more than 100 houses. They have said Mr. Zhang, a recent immigrant from China who speaks no English, was probably not aware of the danger of setting up a campfire during fire season.

Three other people died in the fires that raged in Southern California from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3, all of them in the blaze that charred 18,000 acres and destroyed more than 300 structures in the Topanga Canyon area, west of Los Angeles, and Malibu.

Threat From Rain

Federal, state and local authorities have formed a coordinating group to deal with mudslides, which have become a problem because there is little vegetation on the sides of burnt-out canyons to stop erosion.

Rain last week in Laguna Beach caused slides that damaged the Irvine Bowl, a 2,300-seat outdoor amphitheater, and more than 20 homes.

"Now that the fires are out, we are faced with the immediate hazards associated with those of fires" — erosion and mudslides, said Richard Andrews, who was named state coordinating officer of a group representing 17 local, state and Federal agencies.

The latest estimate of damage from the fires was $1 billion, said Don Mitchell at the Federal Emergency Management Agency office in Pasadena.

About 3,000 claims worth $375 million were expected to be filed in the Malibu-Topanga Canyon fire, the state Office of Emergency Service said.

New York Times

11-24-93

The New York Times

Nov. 24, 1993

$18 Million Allowed for Repairs to Levees

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP) — The Clinton Administration has announced that it will spend only $18 million to repair additional levees damaged by the Midwest floods. Missouri lawmakers had sought eight times that much.

The money covers levees, many of them private, not eligible for repair by the Army Corps of Engineers. The announcement was made on Friday by the Federal Interagency Task Force on Midwestern Flood Recovery.

To qualify, the levee must protect "critical public infrastructure" and have a public sponsor that can put up 25 percent of the rebuilding costs. The the levee district must also be put into the Corps of Engineers program, which requires certain engineering and maintenance standards.

Three Missouri lawmakers, Representatives Pat Danner, a Democrat, and Representative Bill Emerson and Senator Christopher S. Bond, both Republicans, have tried to overcome White House opposition to spending the extra money.

Initially, the Clinton Administration rejected the proposal because of the cost and then — in the midst of the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations — discussed allocating up to $150 million. Mr. Danner voted against the pact, and Mr. Emerson in favor of it.

NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

OES CALIFORNIA

California Office of Emergency Services

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#53
November 23, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal/State Coordinating Office
245 South Los Robles Avenue (3rd. Floor)
Pasadena, CA 91101

Media Contacts: FEMA: Mildred Hopkins (818) 405-7548
STATE: Greg Renick (818) 405-7408

Daily News Summary

HIGH FLOOD POTENTIAL FOR SOUTHLAND

Due to the Southern California Firestorms, the risk of floods remains high, particularly if property is located below a fire area. The U.S. Government's National Flood Insurance Program is available through insurance agents or may be obtained by calling toll-free, 1-800-638-6620. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) spokesman Jack Eldridge spent three days in the Southland last week, assessing the enhanced danger of flooding in firestorm areas. Likewise, the multi-agency coordinating (MAC) group formed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency met last week to deal with the increased flood potential.

* * *

DISASTER ASSISTANCE HOURS COINCIDE

Victims of the Southern California Firestorms may now visit a Disaster Application Center (DAC) or call the Teleregistration to

CALIFORNIA FIRES
DISASTER/RECOVERY FACTS

Fires Started: October 26, 1993

Presidential Declaration: October 28, 1993

Nature of Disaster: Wildfires and Firestorms

Declared Counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura

Structures Destroyed:	1,241
Acres Involved:	197,226

First Disaster Application Center (DAC) Opened: October 30, 1993

DACs Opened To Date:	6
Total Registrations:	2,191
At DACs:	1,614
Via Teleregistration:	577

FEMA/State Assistance Rendered:

Temporary Housing	
Cases Assisted:	1,074
Money Issued:	$1,830,596
Individual Family Grants	
Cases Assisted:	82
Money Issued:	$425,030

SBA Assistance Rendered:

	# Approved	$ Amount
Home & Personal Loans	160	$9,411,000
Business Loans	38	$3,543,700
Business Injury Loans	10	$75,800

As of 20 November
DAC Stats as of: 20 November

--more--

register for local, state and federal assistance during identical hours. The DACs and teleregistration lines are open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm. The teleregistration number is 1-800-462-9029 (or for persons with a hearing or speech impairment the TDD number to call is 1-800-462-7585).

-end-

Disaster Application Centers

Open Monday - Saturday
9 am to 6 pm

Arcadia Community Regional Park
406 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia

23681 Pacific Coast Highway
(corner of Webb Way)
Malibu

Laguna Beach Recreation Center
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach

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NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1993

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External Affairs Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C.

PLEASE RECYCLE CLIPS

USA TODAY
11-24-93

FIRES:
n Calif.,
ı stic look
oses charm

/ Haya El Nasser
SA TODAY

MALIBU, Calif. — Ed Di Giulio no long- s at the desolate moonscape of arred hills, skeletal trees and lone chim- eys surrounding his fire-ravaged 10.5- re property.

He stares at the homes that survived.

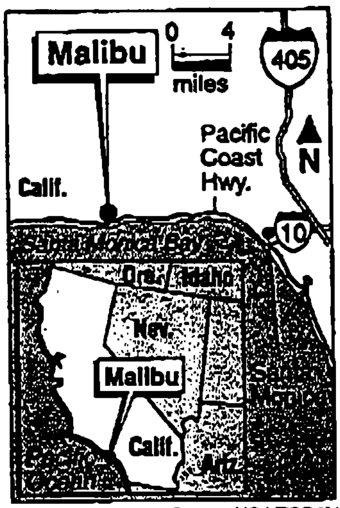
"The only houses that I saw standing ere stucco," says Di Giulio, 66, who lost s 17-year-old cedar-sided house when a reball swept up his hill this month. "It our dream home."

But now that he's convinced his wife to ebuild, Di Giulio knows he must set his ld blueprints aside and do it differently. We're going to use asbestos siding and a eel roof," he quips.

In another canyon, Sandra Crawford nd Ron Goodman climb up an ashy l on a blackened illside to the site of their uture dream home. hey look at a neighbor's panish-style adobe — a survivor of the that destroyed 300 in this seaside anyon paradise — and ake

"We will protect our e in such a way that e will never need a fire or firefighter at our ome," vows Crawford, who will build an adobe with tile roof quipped with sprinklers.

Throughout southern alifornia, fire victims re learning harsh les- in fire survival that change the andscape of some of the region's most elite neigh- borhoods — Laguna Beach, Malibu.



By Web Bryant, USA TODAY

A series of 26 wind-fanned wildfires raged through the region in late October ly November, destroying more 1,100 buildings and causing an esti- $1 billion in damage. In hardest-hit Malibu and Laguna Beach areas alone, about 700 homes were destroyed.

"It's going to be much less rustic," predicts builder Curtis Quillin. "To make a home fireproof, you have to take all the wood off the home, and you can't have a house buried in lush landscaping, brush, large trees. This kind of stuff you're going to see much less of."

Nowhere will this home design and landscape revolution be more apparent than in Malibu, where many of the burned homes were old — some built 70 years ago before fire codes even existed.

"Houses are going to be much harsher in their looks ... a stucco box vs. a rustic charmer," Quillin says.

Wood roofs are out. Tile roofs are in. Adobe or stucco replaces wood siding. Roof sprinklers are in demand. So are double-paned windows. And even when the natural brush returns, hills are likely to be kept barren or covered with fire-resistant plants.

"Workmen are cutting stumps on my entire property and putting herbicide to stop them from coming back," Di Giulio says.

Swimming pools — providing a reliable water source for firefighters — are in.

Says architect David Applebaum, whose homes grace Malibu and posh Bel Air and Beverly Hills: "If I can, I'll build a pool at every single house I build there."

But some of these changes are tough to swallow for those who flocked to Malibu in search of quaintness and utmost privacy — narrow winding lanes leading to wood-sided, wood-decked estates nestled in lush brush and framed by blooming plants.

"My feeling is I don't want to live in a concrete bomb shelter," says film producer and director Howard Ziehm, whose 18-year-old home was destroyed. But "I don't want to feel that the first spark that comes by is going to wipe me out."

It's a tough compromise for Ziehm.

"Our house was entirely cedar inside and out," says Ziehm, who is moving from a Malibu hotel into a mobile home on his burned-out land. "Red bougainvillea everywhere. Birch trees. It was quite a spectacular little place."

But charm and beauty turned to horror for those living off of narrow, snaky dirt roads — some with no fire hydrants.

"You couldn't get a fire truck in there," Applebaum says. "And if it could get in, it couldn't turn around."

In many of those cases, people may just not be able to rebuild.

"They would simply have to take their insurance money and go build their house somewhere else, and they'll have a worthless piece of land," Quillin says.

continued

USA TODAY
11-24-93

Rebuilding boom may take a while

By Haya El Nasser
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Southern California's recession-racked construction industry won't see a rebuilding boom resulting from the fires for at least a year, experts say.

The industry uses Oakland Hills — where 3,200 homes were destroyed in 1991 — as a stark reminder of just how slow rebuilding can be. As of early November, fewer than 1,500 building permits had been issued and only 500 homes rebuilt.

Only seven of the 300 homeowners burned out of Malibu have applied for rebuilding permits. Laguna Beach, where 270 homes burned down, has yet to receive one application.

Some economists estimate the fires will create as many as 3,000 on-site construction jobs and up to 6,000 related jobs over the next few years.

In Malibu, where many of the homes are 20- to 70-years old, homeowners are scrambling to find records and plans buried in county files.

Many still are trying to figure out if they can even rebuild. Some homeowners may have to abandon property because soil is shifting or land is now considered a floodway.

Dee Kinze of the Building Industry Association says fire victims should take their time rebuilding rather than fall prey to unlicensed contractors. The group has set up a referral hot line for fire victims.

To Bui of Laguna Beach should think of setting up his own hot line. The head of EHB Construction and Roofing says his phone hasn't stopped ringing since he received worldwide attention when his Spanish-style mansion was captured in photos as the sole survivor of fires on his hillside.

"They call me to congratulate me and ask about how to build a house that's fire-resistant," says Bui, 42, a father of four. His advice: Double-pane windows, concrete and tile roof because "luck alone, it's not."

WASHINGTON POST NOV 25 1993

JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

831

Thankful Amid the Wreckage

ALEXANDRIA, Mo.

As mayor of a flood-devastated ghost town, Bob Davis is remarkably upbeat—and thankful.

He has every reason not to be this Thanksgiving holiday:

This tight-knit town of 500 in the northeast corner of Missouri lost a valiant sandbag-and-levee battle with the Mississippi River on July 8. No one is yet able to live in Alexandria. Although it does have electricity, the houses are gutted and waterlogged floors inside them have caved in. Only 10 of the 120 homes and 62 trailers had flood insurance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had even advised the people to abandon the town.

"We were the first hit, and the worst hit," Davis said. Indeed, this blue-collar town got a double whammy from the record-setting flood of 1993: Both the Des Moines River on its northern border and the Mississippi on the east side busted the semicircular ring of levees and drowned the town.

Davis said he believes that at least three townspeople who died at flood-time from heart attacks were simply heartbroken at the loss and devastation. It could have been much worse.

For three weeks, the rivers ran through Alexandria. The depth was more than 20 feet. Davis knows because he has a flagpole about that tall, and the flag flying from it was waving underwater for days.

Before the levee breaks, Alexandria residents had two choices: work night and day to sandbag and fight the impending flood, or take all their possessions out. Most chose to fight. Many were lucky enough to save scrapbooks. Davis rescued his 1,400-piece pipe collection in time, including one Bing Crosby smoked.

The mayor drove our associate Dale Van Atta through the unlivable town in a can-cluttered car that Davis is pretty much living out of these days. All the houses are a dirty brown, with five-foot high mud rings that will have to be sandblasted off. The yards and fields are dried and cracked. The brightest sights are the green street signs.

As he pointed out various sights in Alexandria, Davis called a number of them "comical." Here's a shed that somehow was lifted up from a yard several blocks away and floated to its new location, over the high-wire fence around the property. How about those bleachers from the ballpark way over there? And as for "that red and white patio deck from over there, nobody's claimed it. Nobody knows where it comes from. Could be a town upriver."

The mayor was stoic about the fact that the town had scraped together $500,000 over the years and had just resurfaced its roads before the flood and was building a new community center. Davis said he thinks up to 200 people won't ever come back. But the majority will renovate and return.

It may not have had a grocery, school or traffic light before. But the town that people fondly call "Alec" had its volunteer fire department, two churches and even an absurdly painted tavern called "The Purple Cow" on the river. It was a safe, friendly town.

And it's a very stubborn town. As far as the mayor is concerned, "We're not going to give up. We made the town a beautiful place before, and we will again."

But according to Davis, little thanks are due FEMA. When the town was in its most dire straits, FEMA was a phantom. Agency officials said they couldn't scare up any dollars for help while the town was submerged, not until they could inspect the homes and determine they had been damaged. "FEMA ain't doing nothing for us," Davis charged. "All we get from FEMA is promises."

But Davis is sentimental and brought nearly to tears about others. The Salvation Army has not only been in town since June, but is still providing hot meals for the cleanup and construction crews. The Red Cross was pivotal when the federal government couldn't get its act together.

Often it is the simplest gestures that are so sustaining. Tears welled up in the mayor's eyes on Veterans Day when a stranger delivered a new flag after seeing the condition of his flood-torn one.

It flies on the mayor's flagpole now, proud and unwavering like his people.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER NOV 24 1993

U.S. grants funds to rebuild historic Williams building

Quake-torn tower was in danger of being demolished

EXAMINER STAFF REPORT P. A10

A last-minute grant of $6.8 million from the federal government has spared the historic Williams building at Third and Mission streets from the wrecker's ball.

The San Francisco Redevelopment Commission voted Tuesday night to accept the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to preserve the earthquake-damaged office tower.

The money will allow the agency to stabilize the nine-story building, which has sat empty since sustaining serious damage in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

"Right now, it's in a pretty dangerous condition," said agency spokesman Wes Willoughby. "This will allow us to make it safe."

However, the money cannot be used to make the building habitable. That, Willoughby said, will be the responsibility of a private developer. The tower has been suggested as a site for offices, a hotel, housing or possibly a Jewish museum.

The FEMA grant will also allow the agency to perform some earthquake repairs on the nearby Jessie Street substation, another quake-damaged historic building.

Saving the Williams building had become a cause celebre among city preservationists who treasure its Renaissance-Baroque ornamentation.

Designed by celebrated architect Clinton Day, it was among the first of San Francisco's highrise buildings to go up as The City rebuilt after the 1906 quake.

Redevelopment officials had let out a demolition contract, sparking an interdepartmental battle with the Board of Permit Appeals, which was attempting to save the building.

PRESS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#54
November 24, 1993

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal/State Coordinating Office
245 S. Los Robles (3rd Floor)
Pasadena CA 91101

Media Contacts: FEMA - Alex Newton, (818) 405-7407
STATE - Greg Renick, (818) 405-7408

DISASTER APPLICATION CENTERS CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

PASADENA -- Disaster recovery officials from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) remind the public that Disaster Application Centers (DACs) in Arcadia, Laguna Beach and Malibu will be closed tomorrow, November 25th, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

The DACs will reopen Friday, November 26th, to assist individuals, families and business owners who may have suffered losses in the recent Southern California firestorms. They will also be open Saturday.

DACs are located at:

Arcadia Community Regional Park
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia

Laguna Beach Recreation Center
505 Forest Avenue
Laguna Beach

23661 Pacific Coast Highway
(corner of Webb Way)
Malibu

Persons who have been affected by the firestorms are encouraged to visit a DAC to learn about local, state and federal disaster assistance programs for which they may be eligible.

Those who are unable to travel to a DAC may also register for disaster assistance by calling the toll-free Teleregistration line: 1-800-462-9029 or (TDD) 1-800-462-7585 for those with speech or hearing impairments.

-more-

For general information on assistance programs or the status of applications, call: 1-800-525-0321 or (TDD) 1-800-660-8005.

Hours of operation for DACs, Teleregistration and information lines are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

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NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COORDINATING OFFICE

OES CALIFORNIA

California Office of Emergency Services

FEMA-DR-1005-CA-PR#55
November 24, 1993

DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:
Federal/State Coordinating Office
245 S. Los Robles (3rd Floor)
Pasadena CA 91101

Media Contacts: Alex Newton (818) 405-7398
Greg Renick (818) 405-7408

PRESIDENT OKs FIRESTORM-RELATED MUD AND FLOOD DAMAGE ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

PASADENA -- President Clinton has expanded the scope of firestorm disaster assistance to include damage from soil erosion, landslides, flooding and mudslides in Southern California firestorm areas, it was announced today.

At the request of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the President amended his original October 28 major disaster declaration to include those impacted by post-fire disasters. The amendment opens access to a wide variety of assistance programs for eligible individuals who suffer rain-related damage.

The original declaration -- and amendment -- apply to individuals in the burn areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties.

In a letter to James L. Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the President stated that continuing damage resulting from the firestorms "is of sufficient severity and magnitude" to warrant the addition of soil erosion, landslides, flooding and mudslides to the disaster declaration.

A Presidential disaster declaration makes available federal funds to cover uninsured losses of citizens and help pay for extraordinary costs and damage incurred by local governments.

Affected individuals may apply for temporary housing grants, low-interest home/personal property loans and other assistance programs. Applications for disaster assistance may be made by calling the toll-free teleregistration number (1-800-462-9029) or visiting disaster application center located in Malibu, [illegible]

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USA TODAY
11-24-93

HURRICANE: Many st'll waiting for a home

y Deborah Sharp
'SA TODAY

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Hid-
ıg the gift was the only prob-
:m Tuesday at a party for 78-
:ar-old Corrine Roberts.

Roberts' Thanksgiving pre-
:nt is a new home — freshly
iinted and tied with a red rib-
ɔn. It finished with dona-
and volunteers 15 months
ter Hurricane Andrew de-
olished her old house and ev-
ything it.

"I'm so thankful today, my
t is filled with joy," says
e retired farmworker and
known by all as "Moth-
Roberts." "I don't know if I'll
ıow how to act when I get into
house again."

On the second Thanksgiving
ter the storm swept south
ıde County, Fla., farm-
and others still
uggle to recover from
: USA's costliest natu-
r ever. Andrew
homes flat-
ıed, a quarter-million
displaced and
ɔre 8,000 business-
destroyed.

Says Homestead May-
Tad DeMilly, "We're
65% along, and do-
; well."

A problems still
guing recovery, says
:Milly: unscrupulous
ntractors, failed insur-
ce panies and a
ortage of rental hous-
;. "We still have a lot of
ople living in trailers."

For most, the hurri-
ne's worst is behind
:m. Among the slowest
rec r: Communities such
Goulds, where more than
% of 7,000 residents live be-
w the poverty level. But
:oughout the storm's 30-mile-
de path, hurricane-ravaged
ildings are easy to spot
es freshly finished
pastel hues. Plastic tarps still
ver gaping roofs, and travel
— supposedly brought
"temporary housing" —
ll dot streets from Cutler
dge to Florida City.

"We're scared because we still don't have a home, and so much time has passed," says Candelaria Salazar, 63, weeping softly. She lives with six family members in a donated trailer on a gravel lot where their home once stood.

As the storm howled on Aug. 24, 1992, the Salazars ran from room to room of the house they'd owned for more than 20 years. Windows exploded. The roof flew off. Rain pounded in.

Thirteen of them huddled under mattresses pulled from beds. "She was screaming and I was praying," says Santiago Salazar, 67, with a nod toward his wife of 49 years.

A farmworker for a half-century, Salazar is accustomed to hard work. He's picked everything from cotton to tomatoes and raised 14 children along the way. With a part-time salary of about $12,000 a year, he had little savings when Andrew hit. An insurance settlement paid just $25,000 for the home the storm destroyed.

Like Corrine Roberts — whose concrete-block home of 46 years was insured for just $10,000 — the Salazars are among low-income residents helped by a non-profit agency called Centro Campesino. "It gives us a good feeling in our hearts to know we're helping," the group's Susan Reyna says.

Roberts' home was the first the agency finished. Volunteer laborers came from Alabama to Massachusetts and financial aid was assembled from banks to churches and synagogues.

But money and helpers have dwindled as hearts and minds have shifted from south Dade's hurricane to the fires in California and the Midwestern floods. Centro Campesino is struggling for $325,000 to complete 20 homes that are under repair. Almost 60 families are ahead of the Salazars' on the waiting list.

Says Glenn Hoffman, a Unitarian official who worked on Roberts' home: "The closest thing to a religious experience we can have is when people help people. Mother Roberts' house is a symbol of what we as human beings should be doing for one another."

As Roberts celebrates her new digs, two dozen Salazar relatives will gather under an outdoors tent Thursday. Candelaria Salazar will prepare tamales to go with the turkey. They'll give thanks and add a prayer that next year's meal will be served in a new home.

WORCESTER, MA

A6 TELEGRAM & GAZETTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1993

TV CLIPS

DATE November 24, 1993
TIME 7:00-8:00 PM
NETWORK PBS
PROGRAM The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour

JIM LEHRER, co-anchor:

Now a look at the recent southern California fires and their aftermath. Insurance companies report an estimated total loss of $950 million. That loss is only part of the story. Jeffrey Kaye of public station KCET Los Angeles reports.

JEFFREY KAYE reporting:

* * *

(Kaye reports on the Malibu fires and inteviews Joseph Edmiston of the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy.)

* * *

KAYE: Edmiston is also concerned about tax money spent on firefighting and on disaster relief operations such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

Mr. EDMISTON: In terms of the taxpayers, that's the real question. We're paying for this through our federal tax dollars and FEMA, through our state tax dollars, all the overtime, the fire fighters, the equipment lost, to say nothing of potential lives lost. So, yes, the taxpayers do subsidize life out here in the remote wilderness.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Mr. Edmiston states that over a generation FEMA probably will pay for burned-out houses two or three times over. It is suggested that, rather than have the federal government pay people to rebuild in areas they shouldn't rebuild, maybe the areas should be turned into parks permanently.)

DAILY CLIPS

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1993

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Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C.

HARTFORD COURANT

DATE: DEC 14, 1993

Proposed insurance partnership would assist disaster victims

Ramani Ayer

During the grimmest days of the Cold War, both sides of the Iron Curtain thought the unthinkable and considered what might happen in the event of nuclear war.

After witnessing nature's destructive forces last year in the form of Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki, insurers started to rethink what could happen if a natural disaster, packing the destructive force of a nuclear bomb, struck a major city. Hurricane Andrew, with 145 mph winds, was the most costly natural disaster to date. When it finally cleared the southern portion of the Florida peninsula, not only did it leave many people homeless and many businesses ruined, it also sank 10 small insurance companies. Andrew's final tab: $16.5 billion.

Andrew and Iniki — the hurricane that hit Hawaii's island of Kauai — sounded the alarm for insurers and government regulators. Adding to the unease is some meteorologists' prediction that Hurricane Andrew signals an increase in the number and severity of tropical storms to come.

Add to that the swelling population along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and there is the potential for human and financial devastation on a scale unknown in this century.

Here are some scenarios to consider: If Andrew had tracked just a few miles farther north through Miami, instead of through Homestead, Fla., the cost of rebuilding could have exceeded $50 billion. Estimated possible losses from an earthquake centered along fault lines near Los Angeles or San Francisco range between $50 billion and $60 billion.

While we can't control Mother Nature, we can protect ourselves against financial and physical devastation through adoption of the Natural Disaster Protection Act sponsored by Sens. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and by Rep. Norman Mineta, D-Calif. This proposed legislation received its first congressional public hearing Nov. 17.

The proposed act has a three-pronged approach:

- It aims to make physical surroundings safer and make sure there's enough insurance money available to rebuild.

The legislation would ensure that property owners have affordable coverage for natural perils along with their standard insurance coverage.

- It would require states and communities to implement and enforce better disaster planning and improve and enforce building codes.

As a result, the Natural Disaster Protection Act would reduce the damage and expense resulting from natural disasters. Relatively few communities have adopted building codes to minimize damage caused by wind, flood or earthquake — and enforcement is even rarer.

According to some estimates, losses from Hurricane Andrew could have been 30 percent to 40 percent less with proper enforcement of building codes.

- It would establish a catastrophe fund financed solely by insurance premiums. Current taxes and accounting rules prevent insurance companies from setting up catastrophe reserves that could accumulate over a period of years to pay

DAILY CLIPS

NEWSPAPER CLIPS
TELEVISION NEWS TRANSCRIPTS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1993

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Washington, D.C.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH DEC 1 6 1993

Families Pour Out Praise For Flood Agencies

Victims: We Were Treated With Respect

B9

By Thom Gross
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of dollars in aid have flowed to flood victims in Missouri and Illinois, enabling some to resume rly normal lives and others to keep their heads barely above water.

A sampling of flood families in this area found few who reported that the amount of aid had made them whole. But many praised the relief agencies — including the federal government and private charities — for their efficiency, courtesy and humanity.

"I would say that these people from the very beginning have treated us with respect," said Donna Roberts, whose mobile home near Fenton was invaded by the Meramec River in June. "I honestly don't know where we'd be without them. . . . Some have gone way out of their way to help us."

Roy Doskal of West Alton said his family had benefited from aid from the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and private flood insurance. "It's been smooth as silk as far as I'm concerned," he said.

He said FEMA had helped his family in getting a mortgage on a new home on higher ground, still in eastern St. Charles County.

"There's a lot of red tape, and sometimes I got aggravated with it, but it's got to be there," Doskal said. "I look at it like this: I lived in the flood plain, I took the risk, and you can't expect it to be too easy. . . . My experience was a lot better than some."

The relief agencies have defined specialized roles through previous disasters and now operate with little overlap.

First, The Red Cross

The first help a flood victim normally sees comes from the Red Cross, which specializes in immediate and short-term aid.

The Red Cross sets up shelters and feeding centers and distributes cash vouchers for temporary housing, food, clothing, blankets and other essential furnishings. It also provides medical care, counseling, communications and assistance in guiding victims through the confusion of the first days in a disaster.

For example, the Red Cross tracked down Doskal's daughter, Donata, 11, to deliver a package of toys from a woman in New York who had read about her lost doll collection but knew of no address for the girl.

The Doskals spent a few days in Red Cross shelters in July, and then got about $1,000 in Red Cross vouchers for clothing and to replace home furnishings. "It's not enough to replace what you lost, but it helps," Doskal said.

The Red Cross estimates that it has assisted 12,000 households affected by the flood in eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois.

Salvation Army's Aid

The Salvation Army also provides short-term feeding and shelter but then settles in for the long haul. It focuses on distributing goods and services and coordinating volunteer efforts as well as providing cash vouchers.

Caseworkers stick with families and see that they get what they need, whether it's cleanup supplies or a holiday turkey. They watch out for the family's health and general welfare and guide people through the complex array of social service agencies, sometimes providing no more than a sympathetic ear when the lingering stress of the disaster takes its toll.

For example, the Roberts family succeeded in getting its mobile home out of the water and parked on higher ground in August, but last week faced another evacuation because Jefferson County inspectors found code violations in the trailer.

The family called a Salvation Army caseworker, Debbie Bolden. Within a few days, she had found someone who could tie down the trailer according to the county code and was seeking a source of money for the rest of the work.

"**It just seems** like every time we pick ourselves up, something else knocks us down again," said Donna Roberts. "But Debbie gave us a little bit of hope again."

The Salvation Army also gave the family vouchers for rent deposits and utility hookups and has provided clothing, baby shoes and formula and gasoline. Soon, the Robertses will visit the agency's Toy Town to pick out Christmas gifts for their three children — Eric, 7; Lance, 5, and Shelby, 1.

Three weeks before the flood, Stephan Roberts, the father of the family, was injured in a motorcycle accident that cost him his construction job and more than $15,000 in medical bills.

"I was beginning to wonder whether there was anybody in this world that really gave a damn," he said. "I'll tell you one thing: When I get back to work and get some spare time, I'm going to volunteer for the

"I was beginning to wonder whether there was anybody in this world that really gave a damn . . ."

STEPHAN ROBERTS, hailing help of the Salvation Army

Distribution Of Flood Aid

Agency	[illegible]	[illegible] To Date	[illegible]
FEMA Missouri[1]	$118.6 mil.	$52.2 mil.	8,759 (grants) 14,759 (housing)
FEMA Illinois	[illegible]	[illegible]	7,821 (grants) 19,475 (housing)
Red Cross St. Louis[2]	$8.5 mil.	$18.7 mil.	12,000
Food, clothing, housing			$6.4 mil.
Home repairs, furnishings			$3.2 mil.
Shelters, mobile feedings			$2.2 mil.
Personal services (mental health, nurse, shelter workers)			$4.3 mil.
Administrative costs			$2.6 mil.
Salvation Army, Midland[3]	$15.1 mil.	$4.5 mil.	10,000
Aid to families (food, shelter, counseling, cleanup)			$3.9 mil.
Aid to other regions			$1.6 mil.
Administrative costs			$.5 mil.
Budgeted for future relief			$8.9 mil.

[1]*Cumulative to Dec. 1; excludes $172.6 million spent on Small Business Administration loans in Missouri and $83.6 million for the same in Illinois.*
[2]*Cumulative to late November; Red Cross supplemented money collected in this region with money from others.*
[3]*Cumulative to Nov. 20.*

Post-Dispatch Chart

Salvation Army — no ifs, ands or buts about it."

The Salvation Army estimates that it has helped 10,000 households in its Midland Division — Missouri and Southern Illinois — or about 90 percent of all those affected by the flood.

FEMA Brings Cash

Once the president has declared a disaster, FEMA comes on the scene and then distributes cash grants for repairs, reconstruction and essential living costs. It is by far the biggest provider of relief dollars in the region, including its coordination of flood-related loans under the Small Business Administration.

The government already has injected hundreds of millions of dollars in Missouri and Illinois, mostly in SBA loans for homes and businesses.

Also, FEMA has awarded tens of millions in grants. So far, that money has come mainly under two programs: Individual and Family Grants, a program that has assisted 8,759 households in Missouri and 7,821 in Illinois, and Disaster Housing Assistance, which has gone to 14,759 households in Missouri and 19,475 in Illinois.

More FEMA money is in the pipeline for buying out homes in flood areas and assisting local governments with infrastructure repairs.

Doskal said FEMA provided two housing checks when his family was displaced during the summer and then helped arrange an SBA loan to buy a new home. Soon, he will explore the FEMA buyout program for his old home.

Stephan Roberts said FEMA has provided money toward the rent for his pad in the new mobile home park and for materials to repair his trailer. So far, he has used the money to replace its door and windows and to paint the exterior a bright white with royal-blue trim. He still needs to add skirting and repair and replace flooring, wall panels and ceilings.

"The FEMA people were fine," he said. "They came down to McDonald's in Arnold, and the place was full of flood families. But in 10 minutes we gave them all the information they needed and were on our way."

ACCESS # OMHA326035
HEADLINE Drainage District, NRD May Merge
Improving Levee Goal of Plan
Byline: JAMES IVEY
Credit: WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 6.1 Words: 896
DATE 12/14/93
SOURCE The Omaha World-Herald (OMHA)
Edition: Bulldog
Section: News
Page: 16

KEYWORDS.

A proposal to merge the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and a Sarpy County farm group could result in major improvement of a levee that broke last March under pressure from a Platte River ice jam.

Under the plan, the West Sarpy County Drainage District would merge with the NRD, which would then strengthen the district's six miles of dike along the Platte west of Gretna.

"It all would be similar to the Union Dike project up at Valley," said Steve Oltmans, Papio-Missouri NRD general manager.

After a costly 1978 Platte flood, the Union drainage district merged with the NRD, and a new Union Dike was built. It successfully withstood the March flooding that topped, then broke, the West Sarpy dike.

Drainage district officials said the board is divided on the issue.

"I think sometimes I'm the only one for it," said Gretna-area farmer Frank Cockerill, the district board chairman.

District members, totaling about 30, are concerned they may lose both land and control of the district, said the vice chairman, Rich Jansen. Jansen said the district also is interested in working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a new study of the lower reaches of the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers.

The corps' Omaha district office said funds for such a study have been requested.

The drainage district is made up of about 10,000 acres, mostly farmland, along the Platte bottoms. It was formed in 1909 and built six miles of dike along the east bank of the Platte.

At various times through the 1920s, about 23 miles of ditches were added to drain the land.

The district would merge with the NRD, and members of the drainage district would make up an advisory group on improving and maintaining the dike and ditches.

Some current members, as youths, watched the building of the dike, and other members are descendants of farmers who built it.

"We know it's a hard decision for them to make," said Oltmans. "But we think we made a good offer."

The district would continue to pay about what it now pays, $20,000 a year, to maintain the dike and ditch.

"With a flood now, we can spend that much in a month," said Cockerill.

Oltmans said the NRD would apply for disaster funds to build up the dike. He estimated that such a project would cost $1.5 million to $2 million.

Oltmans said the district believes it can get up to 80 percent of the funding from emergency flood spending.

"The dike itself wouldn't cost the drainage district a dime," Oltmans said.

Today the dike protects more than farmland. When the Platte went through it early in March, the waters began cutting a new channel over the farmland.

Floodwater wiped out a U.S. Highway 6 bridge and damaged two others and the Burlington Northern railroad tracks, Lincoln's city-owned water well fields and an Interstate 80 bridge.

Both Oltmans and district officials say the State of Nebraska, the City of Lincoln and the railroad now should have interest in the dike's condition.

"We would go to them and expect some contribution to the rehabilitation," said Oltmans. "But I don't think they will talk to us without a comprehensive plan."

He agreed that the members of the district would lose control. "They've done some good things down there, but they wouldn't be calling the shots anymore."

The levee can't be raised very much, Oltmans said, but the base can be widened so that "even if it is topped, it won't blow out." The dike blowout last March kept water running over farmland for more than a month.

That is another problem for farmers, said Jansen of the drainage district. The NRD plan would take more farmland.

The base of the dike now takes a 100-foot right of way, he said, and "they want to take it out to 200 feet."

The Army Engineer study Jansen talks about hasn't been approved yet, said Ken Cooper, chief of the planning division of the Omaha district office. Its completion probably would be two years away, he said.

The study request covers the Platte from Columbus to the confluence with the Missouri River between Sarpy and Cass Counties; parts of the Loup River, which flows into the Platte at Columbus; and the Elkhorn River from Norfolk to its confluence with the Platte in western Sarpy County - at the north end of the drainage district.

Cooper said the study would go over areas subject to floods and what could be done in them. It also would consider environmental impact of flood control projects.

Oltmans said the NRD would like to have a merger decision soon because of the existence of the $8 billion in federal flood recovery funds. About $18 million is available for disaster emergency projects such as levee repair, he said.

In another flood matter, the NRD is expected to attend the Sarpy County Board's Tuesday meeting and discuss potential buyouts of homes damaged by Missouri River floods south of Bellevue during the year.

Oltmans said the NRD is seeking about $3 million from the

* Federal Emergency Management Agency to buy homes in the flood area. The request must be made through a county or city, he said, so Sarpy County would become a subgrantee.

About a third of the owners of 160 homes along the Missouri south of Bellevue have indicated they wish to talk about selling out.

ACCESS # SLBU15344
HEADLINE Refreshing results Summer floods didn't hurt drinking water, health officials say
Byline: RICK DESLOGE
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 5.7 Words: 807
DATE 12/13/93
SOURCE ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL (SLBU) (SLBJ)

Public health was never at risk and damage to the environment was minimal from the Flood of '93, according to drinking water, public health and farming officials.

"We reaped the rewards of our investments in good drinking water, safe disposal of sewage and food inspection," said Mike Williams, who oversees communicable disease control for the St. Louis County Department of Health.

Williams expected to find parasites responsible for outbreaks of diarrhea, or perhaps cases of waterborne Salmonella and hepatitis A.

"I spent August and September hunting for anything and found nothing," he said. "Everything worked _ the sewer and water and food inspection systems.

The primary skeptics of the flood's negligible health and environmental consequences were radio and television news departments that had anticipated at least minimal health consequences, officials said.

"They were disappointed when I told them the health effects were undetectable," he added, "There was a greater danger of drowning or accidents."

Michael Tinkey, president of St. Louis County Water Co., said one television station here canceled an interview with him after Tinkey explained a flooded water intake station on the Missouri River was not impacting the drinking supply one iota.

"We had lots of problems due to the flood, but providing quality drinking water was not one of them," Tinkey said.

Meanwhile the Monroe County Farm Bureau in Illinois said farmers already were plowing some of the previously flooded 65,000 acres in that county.

As the metropolitan area struggles to rebuild from rushing water that cost billions of dollars in lost property and lost businesses, public health officials said they could not attribute any outbreaks of disease to the flooding.

Other illnesses that could have been health problem were nipped in the bud with a comparatively inexpensive $10 to $15 tetanus shot.

Even in Alton, where the Mississippi River knocked out the Illinois-American Water Co. and left 75,000 homes without running water, there were no reports of contaminated drinking water.

Tinkey also credited a heavy investment in pure drinking water for keeping the area's pipes running.

St. Louis County Water, a $60 million division of Continental Water Co., is the largest water company in the state. It serves 1.2 million people and employs 565.

During summer months, the water company normally uses more activated charcoal, the main chemical used to remove farm pesticides atrazine and alachor from the water, according to Tinkey.

"This year (those chemicals) really hit us before the flood," he said.

When the flood actually hit, the normal range of impurities removed by the water companies were greatly diluted.

Tinkey said a more difficult problem was boating people in and out of its four water plant locations and repairing 100 feet of a 42-inch water main that washed out in Chesterfield.

The water company filters out much of the solid residue using sand and a range of chemicals, primarily lime, chlorine, ferric sulfate and carbon.

"We are way below all the criteria set by the EPA (the federal Environmental Protection Agency)," he said. "We do over a 1,000 tests a day on the water. We need to know what's in the water so we can take it out."

This year's chemical bill will be about $2.5 million, up from $2.1 million in 1992. The higher costs come partially from price increases and partially from pumping a larger volume of water this year, Tinkey said _ not from flooding.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources allowed water
* trapped behind levees to be pumped into the main rivers, said John Ford, an environmental specialist with the water pollution program for the DNR. That increased the amount of chemical runoff from farms, but water volumes were so high the chemicals were diluted.

"The EPA looked at 33 of the most common organic compounds _ fuel oil, benzine, PCBs _ and couldn't find anything," Ford said.

The DNR collects its data from Kansas City, a federal water quality checkpoint on the Missouri River at Hermann, and from the St. Louis County Water Co.

Currently, the EPA allows the herbicide atrazine in levels of three parts per billion. St. Louis County is nearly 10 times lower than that standard, and it is the only farm chemical that shows up in any trace amounts from the county tests.

In selected Nebraska and Kansas watersheds, atrazine runoff is controlled, Ford said. In Missouri it is still voluntary.

But there are trade-offs, Ford said.

Atrazine is a highly effective herbicide, he said. but it poses some cancer risks and brings increased costs to water companies treat and remove the chemical from drinking supplies.

Tinkey said the cost of removing atrazine is comparatively inexpensive.

"I'm more annoyed about the EPA making us test for a chemical discharge that only comes from pineapple plantations," he said.

Those plantations are all in California and Hawaii. Photo by Peter Newcomb place cutline here

Agent Helps Keep Fire Victims From Getting Burned by Builders

■ **Disaster:** State investigator poses as a property owner to ferret out unlicensed contractors operating in charred areas.

By MATHIS CHAZANOV
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Meet Agent 007. He doesn't have a license to kill, but unlicensed contractors could find themselves in jail if he catches them in the act.

His latest field of operations is Malibu, where fire-stricken homeowners are being romanced by dozens of unauthorized workers eager for cleanup and reconstruction jobs.

The problem: it's illegal. In fact, contracting without a license in a disaster zone is a felony, and the holder of badge No. 007, otherwise known as Senior Investigator Dan Hitt, was on the job at the end of Carbon Mesa Road Tuesday.

Dressed in lizard-skin boots, blue jeans and a black leather jacket from the Hard Rock Cafe in Newport Beach, he was posing as the out-of-town owner of an ocean-view garage that lost its roof in the fires. Only his car, a dusty, state-owned compact, did not fit the image.

One prospect declined to take the bait and drove away. But with a little coaxing, Hitt got two unlicensed operators to give him written estimates and accept $1,000 checks to start the demolition.

Then came the clincher. By the way, he asked, are you licensed?

Both claimed to have partners whose licenses were up to date, but that was the wrong answer. The law requires that all partners be licensed.

"Why are you guys trying to make me look like a bad guy? I'm not a bad guy," said one suspect, Mehrded Shahafi of Malibu. "I don't believe I've done anything wrong."

"You just can't do it," Hitt replied. "We want you either out of the business as unlicensed, or to get a license. That's the way it's got to be."

Hitt handcuffed the suspects, read them their rights and handed them over to Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies waiting in an unmarked car down the street.

A similar sting picked up five violators in the fire-ravaged Laguna Beach area a few weeks ago.

"A lot of guys think they're just businessmen out to make a buck, but they don't understand the gravity of not complying with the law," said Hitt, one of three peace officers on the staff of the Contractors State License Board.

Unregulated contractors generally do not bother getting liability insurance or workers' compensation coverage, he said, and homeowners have little recourse if the workers abandon the job or do shoddy work.

The agency was alerted to the situation by local contractors who were upset by a rash of flyers and newspaper advertisements offering cut-rate demolition and repair in the weeks after the firestorm that claimed 350 homes in Malibu and the surrounding area.

"We call them carpetbaggers," said Richard N. Sherman, a member of the Malibu Assn. of Contractors.

"I pay $2,500 a month in liability insurance and workers' comp comes to around $2,000 . . . and I hate to see someone go around and nickel-and-dime me out of work and not have to pay that," he said.

Up to one-third of the contractors who showed up at community meetings held in the weeks after the fires either listed fictitious license numbers or did not bother to claim they were licensed, he said.

Strangely enough, Hitt and his backup team of two civilian deputy registrars found themselves busy despite Malibu's decision earlier this month to have a Ventura company clear all the home sites that had not been cleaned up yet.

"Greed is the operating motive," said Dennis Bishop, the license board's supervising deputy for Southern California. "Most of these guys want to bid on the reconstruction, too."

There are about 260,000 licensed contractors statewide and at least that many unregulated mavericks, he said.

With construction at a virtual halt, "you've got all those people out there trying to make a living the only way they know how," he said.

Contracting without a license is normally a misdemeanor, but if it happens in a disaster zone, violators face up to three years in prison and a fine of up to $10,000.

'A lot of guys think they're just businessmen out to make a buck, but they don't understand the gravity of not complying with the law.'

DAN HITT

LA TIMES
2-15-93

THE MUD AND THE FLOOD

Topanga Faces Winter Challenge

Because of the tens of thousands of tons of ash and debris left behind in the Topanga Canyon Watershed by the November 2 Old Canyon Fire Topanga homeowners and residents - especially those in the Old Topanga and Fernwood areas, face the potential for catastrophic flooding this winter.

The time to act is now, says Topanga/Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District consultant Rosi Dagit...

By Rosi Dagit

PREVENTION MEASURES

First, it will be crucial to keep watch on the stream channels, culverts and drainages of all kinds to be sure they do not become clogged with debris.

In some situations, drains can be protected by building a sand-bag wall around them to keep debris out while still allowing water to seep through. These must be built with care, so that the deflected debris is not put somewhere else where it can do damage, like your neighbor's garage or driveway.

If you see portions of the road becoming a problem, please call the appropriate agency immediately.

CalTrans is responsible for Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Pacific Coast Highway. Their 24 hour emergency number is 213-897-0383.

LA County is responsible for Old Topanga Canyon Blvd. and all side streets. Their 24 hour emergency number is 818-458-HELP. During business hours, you can call 818-458-4000. Another useful number is 456-9982, Malibu Disaster Recovery.

MESSENGER 12/2 - 12/15/93

MIAMI HERALD DEC 16 1993

Rebuilding for the disabled

THE ADA IS THE LAW

Trouble is, too many buildings in Florida have yet to provide access for the handicapped.

32A

The U.S. Justice Department recently sent this reminder to builders and architects in 15 states recovering from natural disasters: Don't forget that any new construction has to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Florida, parts of which still are rebuilding from the ravages of Hurricane Andrew and later a tornado, was naturally among those targeted. It's a good thing.

Florida ranks among the top five states in complaints about noncompliance with the ADA. That's a worrisome distinction — one that those who design buildings and enforce the permitting process must do more to shed.

President Bush signed the ADA into law in 1990. It prohibits discrimination against handicapped people in employment and in access to public accommodations such as hotels, restaurants, theaters, stores, and museums. It's considered the most sweeping civil rights legislation in decades.

Now it is up to communities not only to ensure compliance, but to find the best way of doing so. The ADA provides the guidelines; localities must execute them. No doubt court rulings will expand or constrict the ADA. The Justice Department rightly is intent on ensuring compliance with the law's broad components.

In Florida, Justice already has forced both the Clearwater Police Department and the Sixth Judicial Circuit to provide interpreters for the hearing impaired, and the Madison County Courthouse to make modifications for wheelchair access. Besides governing new construction, the ADA requires existing buildings to use all reasonable means to remove structural barriers.

Though the Justice Department properly considers negotiation the easiest route to compliance, it warns that tougher measures are at the ready. Those include fines, consent decrees, and litigation against businesses and governments that show a pattern of discrimination against the disabled.

No disabled person who is denied access and accommodation should hesitate to file a complaint. Such complaints have propelled Florida among the states with the most catching up to do. Heightened federal and state action now could wipe out that sorry distinction before the courts are compelled to take over.

● To file an ADA complaint, write to the Public Access Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66738, Washington, D.C. 20035-6738.

ACCESS # FWST202277
HEADLINE Around the State
Credit: Staff and Wire Reports
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 4.9 Words: 673
DATE 12/15/93
SOURCE THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (FWST)
Edition: FINAL AM
Section: METRO
Page: 31

Fort Worth

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is beginning studies of flood hazard areas in Parker County.

* The studies are being done for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will be turned over to the agency by August. The purpose is to identify flood hazard areas for the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Parker County will use flood-elevation data from the studies to carry out flood plain management objectives of the National Flood Insurance Program. The data will also be used to determine appropriate flood insurance premium rates.

Interested people may send information about local flood hazards to Bill Black, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN:CESWF-PL-FM, Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX., 76102-0300.

ACCESS # DAL1379635
HEADLINE A threat runs through it Letter tells cities to join flood plan or lose funds
Byline: Chris Kelley
Credit: Urban Affairs Writer of The Dallas Morning News
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 6.9 Words: 975
DATE 12/13/93
SOURCE THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS (DAL)
Edition: HOME FINAL
Section: NEWS
Page: 21A

The federal government has issued a stern warning to cities and counties along the Trinity River: Cooperate in helping flood control or face the wrath of Uncle Sam.

In a recent letter, the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers warned that six cities and three counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area stand to lose federal funds if they don't join a regional plan aimed at better controlling development along the Trinity.

Col. Joseph G. Graf, district engineer for the corps' Fort Worth district, said last summer's Mississippi River flooding "is a real-life example" of the devastation that could occur if current development trends continue along the Trinity.

His Nov. 24 letter comes two months after The Dallas Morning News reported that decades of explosive urban development and poor flood control maintenance have doubled the danger that a catastrophic flood could break the Trinity River levee systems protecting Dallas and Fort Worth.

Col. Graf said cities that don't adopt the Trinity "corridor development certificate" process by Jan. 28 risk losing millions of dollars in federal aid while facing stricter controls on new development.

The six cities are Arlington, Carrollton, Coppell, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie and Lewisville. The three counties are Dallas, Denton and Tarrant.

The program is aimed at scrutinizing proposed development along the river for its flood control impact. As an urban river, the Trinity essentially acts as a huge drain during storms, emptying a metropolitan area consisting of 4.2 million people - the nation's ninth-largest.

Since 1980, thousands of acres of once-pristine Trinity floodplain - land needed to soak up rain during heavy storms - have been turned into water-repellent concrete plains because of new development.

The result: Millions of gallons of water once stored in floodplain areas now pour into the Trinity during storms, causing damaging floods in downstream cities.

Local cities control most development through floodplain ordinances. But there was no regional process in place to measure the cumulative impact of all the new development until 1990, when the review process was established.

"The flooding along the Mississippi River this year in the Midwest is a real-life example of the disastrous impacts that may occur if a radical reduction in valley storage is allowed as a byproduct of development in the floodplain, including construction

* of a hodgepodge of levees," Col. Graf wrote.

Dallas stands to lose the most in the event of a so-called standard project flood - the worst flood likely to occur along the Trinity.

* Such a flood would topple levees protecting downtown Dallas, West Dallas and the Stemmons Freeway corridor, according to corps projections.

In the event of a levee failure in Dallas, about 13 square miles - an area eight times the size of White Rock Lake - could be swamped by severely polluted floodwaters. Such a flood would endanger $13.4 billion in property - one-third of the city's tax base. Loss of life from such a flood is unpredictable, but the toll would be at least in the dozens, officials say.

Consequently, applying common criteria to new development along the Trinity through the certification process is "essential" to the region's future, Col. Graf said.

He noted that even though the process has been around for three years, only three cities - Dallas, Irving and Farmers Branch - have adopted it.

But some of the other cities and counties are moving quickly to adopt the review process. The Coppell City Council is scheduled to consider the matter Tuesday . Denton County commissioners have instructed their staff to put the plan formally on their agenda.

Other cities and counties have either been briefed by planners from the North Central Texas Council of Governments on the review process or have briefings scheduled for early January. The council is the metropolitan planning organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area and coordinator for Trinity River planning.

John Promise, director of environmental resources for the council of governments, said the agency is convening a meeting of city managers from affected cities in early January to discuss the review process.

Carrollton City Manager Dan Johnson said his city is supportive of the review process.

"We are committed to ratify and become part of that regional process," he said. "There are some questions about logistics and mechanics, and we are concerned about some prerogatives of a home-rule city like Carrollton. But we want to be a good neighbor."

Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson said county commissioners will be briefed on the process in January.

"I do expect Dallas County will do our part in any regional effort," he said.

The entire region faces more stringent federal regulations on floodplain development unless all cities and counties adopt the review process, Col. Graf said.

However, the six cities and three counties could face additional adverse consequences, he said. Among them:

* Possible loss of federal funding for future flood-control projects. Local governments that participate will be ranked higher for federal aid than those that don't, he said. The corps is spending about $10 million this fiscal year on flood-control projects in the metropolitan area, said spokesman Ron Ruffennach.

* Stricter and more expensive controls on new developments that seek to build in or near the floodplain. The corps must issue permits for projects that result in depositing dredged and fill material in rivers and wetlands.

Col. Graf set no deadline in his letter to the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

But Jan. 28 is the deadline set by council planners. The planners say they need to know by then which cities and counties will participate so they can calibrate computer models aimed at determining the feasibility of flood control projects now under study by the corps.

The corps is conducting a massive five-year, $8 million study on the Trinity that focuses on reducing flood risks. The study is due to be completed in 1995.

ACCESS # RNKE33480201
HEADLINE FLOOD POLICIES IN LIMBO
Byline: JOEL TURNER MUNICIPAL WRITER
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 2.8 Words: 359
DATE 12/14/93
SOURCE ROANOKE TIMES & WORLD NEWS (RNKE)
Edition: METRO
Section: VIRGINIA
Page: C-1

If you're buying a house in Roanoke and want to buy flood insurance, you can't.

Roanoke has been suspended from the national flood insurance * program by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, which says that the city failed to meet an Oct. 15 deadline for revising its flood-plain regulations.

As a result, no building owner in Roanoke will be able to purchase a flood insurance policy or renew an existing policy.

City officials said the suspension apparently was triggered by a misunderstanding of the documents they have submitted to the federal agency to show what the city has done.

They expect the city to be quickly reinstated once FEMA understands that the requested changes have been made.

"This seems to be a case of some federal bureaucrats not understanding how local government works," said City Attorney Wilburn Dibling.

"We have sent them everything they need, and we have explained in detail what we have done," Dibling said.

But Etta Sims, a community planner with FEMA, said Monday she has not received a certified or final copy of the city's changes.

Under the flood-insurance program, localities are required to make periodic changes in flood-plain regulations to help reduce flood damages.

The changes involve zoning and restrictions on development in the flood plain. The city has no objection to the changes, approved in October.

But Sims said she has not received the final documents.

"I received the draft documents, and they seemed OK, but I don't have anything final," she said. "They haven't submitted it in the proper format."

John Marlles, chief of community planning for the city, said there have been several pieces of correspondence with Sims about the issue.

"She wanted to know when the ordinance would take effect. Our ordinances take effect 10 days after they are passed, unless a date is specified," Marlles said. "She thought there should be a date in it."

The suspension does not affect property owners whose flood insurance does not come up for renewal during the period while the city is suspended, Sims said.

"We will reinstate their eligibility once we have an adopted ordinance or a certified copy," Sims said.

ACCESS # LAD281129
HEADLINE SIMI VALLEY: BRIEFLY
DISTRICT TO CONSIDER STREET SIGN CHANGE
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 3.2 Words: 442
DATE 12/14/93
SOURCE LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS (LAD)
Edition: SIMI VALLEY
Section: NEWS
Page: SV3

Emergency shelter will remain open

* OXNARD - With the help of $43,520 in Federal Emergency Management Administration money, the Emergency Warming Shelter at the National Guard Armory will begin operating nightly Wednesday, regardless of the weather, according to the Ventura County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The shelter at 351 S. K St., operated by the Red Cross under contract with the county, has been operating only on nights when the temperature dipped below 40 degrees or when a 50 percent or more chance of rain was forecast and the temperature was below 50 degrees. With the extra funding, the seasonal shelter will be open nightly from 7 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. until March 15.

The Red Cross contracts with Turning Point Foundation to provide round-trip van transportation from Ventura to the shelter. The van arrives at the parking lot beside the West Main Street Bridge at the Ventura River and at Plaza Park across from the Post Office every day at 6:15 p.m.

ACCESS # OMHA326018
HEADLINE Chadron Contractor Chosen in Crawford
Credit: AP
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 1.1 Words: 73
DATE 12/13/93
SOURCE The Omaha World-Herald (OMHA)
Edition: Sunrise
Section: News
Page: 12
Origin: Crawford, Neb.

KEYWORDS.

A Chadron contractor has been chosen to build the Crawford Community Building, which will replace the Crawford park pavilion, destroyed in a May 1991 flood.

The building is expected to cost $246,000.

Mayor Robert Scoggan said construction will begin as soon as final federal approval is received on the city's contract with Fuller Construction.

* The Federal Emergency Management Agency is funding 75 percent of the project, with the city paying the rest, Scoggan said.

DAILY CLIPS

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ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH JAN 3 1994

Ghost Towns:

Communities Fight For Life

By Margaret Gillerman A1
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

MARIAN Bartholomew's prized organ — a Yamaha with a double keyboard — lies silent now, frozen in mud and snow, its pedals covered with icicles.

A few feet away, a stack of white china dishes leans against a cottonwood tree. A mirror lies shattered on the frozen dirt. Nearby, the turquoise Otter Creek gurgles on, oblivious, still swollen like a river.

This once was Nutwood, Ill., a farm community of about 100 that had one country grocery and one main street. Today, it's nearly a ghost town, thanks to a series of events last summer.

First came the flood, then a fire and a lightning strike, and then a tornado — all in two or three days.

Most residents have fled to Fieldon, about five miles northeast, or to other communities. For months, they've waited for government buyouts so they can start rebuilding their lives.

Bartholomew, 71, used to play "old-time music" on her beloved organ at Christmas, with her family gathered around her in the solid old house with knotty pine walls and a blue stone front porch.

But six months ago, Otter Creek rose over its banks. On July 18, the Illinois River a mile away crashed through Nutwood's levee, rolled over the high green corn and into Bartholomew's home and the

See TOWNS, Page 6

homes of her neighbors. The waters turned the community topsy-turvy, and little has changed since.

The fragments of residents' lives — a television turned on its side, windows blasted out by the force of water, family photographs — are scattered along the creek banks.

Residents Pray For Buyouts

While a few hearty souls hope to make a new start in the new year back in Nutwood, many former residents pray for federal buyouts.

Richard Allen, the Jersey County board chairman, says most residents want to be bought out so they can resettle on higher land.

The federal government "says it's a slow process. That's the understatement of the year," Allen says.

To Allen's knowledge, no one in Nutwood has gotten a check; many residents are living with relatives throughout Southern Illinois.

"They're all up in the air. Everybody is. Nobody's seen a check yet. Your life is a mess."

Allen says other residents in town whose homes weren't so severely damaged also want to be bought out.

They worry "there won't be enough people to support the water system and streets," Allen says.

"It's pretty much deserted in Nutwood. It's pretty much gone, the water and winds tore the heck out of it," Allen says.

'Nutwood Went To Pieces'

Each winter, Otter Creek turns turquoise. Against the white snow, it looks like a ribbon on a holiday gift. This winter, there's hardly anyone there to admire it.

Even though Marian Bartholomew and her daughters haven't got any federal flood money yet, they have resettled. Sometimes, they revisit the ruins of their old homes, where trash fires rise up from the rubble of the old neighborhood.

"Nutwood went to pieces," said Mary Robinson, 42, one of the daughters. "It looks like a bomb hit it."

Robinson will never forget the sirens sounding when the levee broke. "You felt a chill and then everyone fell silent. And then it was chaos and crying.

"This one beat us. It physically beat us — but not spiritually. We love the area just the same."

Robinson moved with her mother and her daughter across Route 100, in a home nestled in a valley in the rolling hills that overlook the fertile plains. Her sisters and other family members also moved nearby.

"You could never pry me away from these hills," Robinson says.

Says her mother, Marian Bartholomew: "I'm still where I can look at the creek, but it would take 40 more feet of water to get to me" next time.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

DEC 3 1 1993

Crop Aid Got Dusting Of Politics

Administration Was Careful To Cultivate Votes

By William H. Freivogel
and Louis J. Rose
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A1

LAST OF A SERIES

LIKE A magician pulling a rabbit from a hat, Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa rose on the Senate floor on Aug. 4 and held aloft a decisive, 11th-hour letter from President Bill Clinton's administration.

The letter lent administration support to an extra $1 billion in crop disaster payments for Midwestern farmers. Hours of debate abruptly ended; the aid passed.

INSIDE

■ Broad Coverage: Congress insures 1,200 types of crops. 14A
■ Legal Finagling: Big farmers can skirt payment ceilings. 14A

Two days later, in what appeared to be an unrelated event, Harkin provided a crucial vote in favor of Clinton's controversial budget bill.

The two events turned out to have an important link, say officials in the executive branch and Congress. Because Harkin's vote was pivotal in the 51-50 budget vote, the Iowa Democrat was able to persuade the administration to support the bill doubling disaster payments.

That increase in aid for Midwest farmers was the most expensive of three politically sensitive decisions by the Clinton administration in 1993 that pumped an extra $1.5 billion into federal farm assistance — most of it to aid flood victims.

The other two decisions were unprecedented:

■ Under pressure from Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr., D-Mich., and other Michigan politicians, Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy agreed to let farmers collect disaster payments for crops that are harvested but are of poor quality. In the past, free disaster payments had been available for crops that had been destroyed, but with no provision for the quality.

■ Under pressure from Harkin and others, Espy extended a deadline to let farmers put their flood-damaged fields into a government program that promised a higher government subsidy.

Here are the stories of those three decisions, as told by those involved on Capitol Hill and the administration,

Quality Payments

When 1993 began, $400 million in unused disaster funds was available from past disaster legislation. It didn't stay unused for long.

Riegle and other Michigan politicians had already begun their effort to tap into these funds to help Michigan farmers who had poor-quality corn harvests in 1992. Too much rain and too little heat resulted in a crop that grew but never matured.

Riegle had tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Bush administration to open up the money to quality payments. When Clinton came into office, Riegle tried anew with Espy.

In March, Espy met in Washington with Riegle, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., and other Michigan Democrats. Espy promptly visited Michigan farms and announced in early April that he would permit disaster payments for poor-quality corn.

Espy's decision was not universally popular on Capitol Hill. At a hearing, Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., remarked that the disaster program was often used for political influence.

Soon, members of the powerful Texas congressional delegation were complaining that their farmers had suffered a poor cotton crop.

In response, the program was broadened nationwide, expanded to wheat and cotton and extended back to the 1990-92 crop years. As a result, some Midwestern farmers, like those in St. Charles County, were able to apply for flood disaster payments and drought disaster payments at the same time this fall — flood payments for 1993 and drought

A spokesman for Espy defended the decision, saying the Michigan corn had been almost worthless.

Among the Clinton administration's three costly decisions in 1993, this one was the most roundly criticized in Washington. A veteran agriculture staff member on the Democratic side of the aisle was stunned.

"Farmers can always argue that a crop is poor quality," he said. "Even some congressional people pushing for it were flabbergasted. They thought they would go through the motions and Espy would say no. Now the barn door is open, and those cows are out of the barn."

Doubling Payments

Disaster payments are based on a complicated formula that pays farmers about 42 cents on every dollar they might have earned. The Bush administration cut the payment in half for 1991 and 1992 disasters, including Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Iniki.

When the flood hit the Midwest this year, the Clinton administration said it also planned to use the lower formula. Harkin and Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., led a bipartisan effort to return to the 42-cent payment.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, blocked the Harkin-Bond proposal, based on the administration's position.

On Aug. 4 the Senate met to debate the issue.

As the debate droned, Harkin made a series of phone calls to administration officials, lobbying hard for support.

At the same time, the administration was trying to shore up its supporters for the approaching vote on a far more important measure for the president — the Clinton budget. Clinton could not afford a single defection on his bill, which was the centerpiece of his first eight months in office.

Sources in the executive branch say administration officials had to take into account the importance of Harkin's vote on the budget in deciding how to respond to his pleas on the flood bill. A staff member for Harkin, who asked not to be identified, said the senator talked with top administration officials and they "understood that they needed his vote on the budget. It stands to reason they didn't want to alienate anybody just before the budget vote. . . . The letter came through right after the last call to the White House."

In the end, Harkin rose from his seat with a letter of support from Leon E. Panetta, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The letter pulled the rug from under Byrd, who later complained of having been "whipsawed" by the administration.

The budget office did not respond to inquiries. Keith Collins, an acting assistant secretary at the Agriculture Department, said he did not know of a deal between Harkin and the administration but could not rule it out. Collins suggested that the Senate vote was also influenced by figures showing that a significant number of farmers would go broke at the lower reimbursement rate.

The 0/92 Program

The ink was hardly dry on the $5.7 billion disaster bill before Harkin and other senators from flood states persuaded Espy to give farmers another break. Later in August, Espy waived a crucial deadline to let more farmers put their land in a government program that promised a higher payment — the so-called 0/92 program.

Bond

Harkin

The rules for figuring government payments to farmers are nearly indecipherable, involving such terms as yields, set-asides, target prices, market prices, eligible acres, flex acres, deficiency payments.

The government sets a target price that it will guarantee to farmers who take part in the price-support program by setting aside a portion of their land from production. Then the government predicts what the market price of the crop is likely to be. The difference between the target price and the market price is the predicted amount of the government payment to the farmer. It is called the deficiency payment.

Most farmers get part of their deficiency payment upfront to buy seed, chemicals and fertilizer for planting. They get the rest after marketing the crop.

The 0/92 program lets farmers of wheat and feed grains hold their land out of production and still get 92 percent of the deficiency payment they would have gotten for planting the land.

Normally, the deadline for getting into the program is in July. But, at the urging of Harkin and others, Espy delayed it to Sept. 17. As that date approached, many Midwestern farmers sloshed around their wet fields to decide whether to chance the harvest

"Even some congressional people pushing for it were flabbergasted. They thought they would go through the motions and Espy would say no. Now the barn door is open, and those cows are out of the barn."

VETERAN AGRICULTURE STAFF MEMBER

or to plow it under as the 0/92 program required. Most farmers in St. Charles County put their acres in 0/92.

That was a good decision. The low supply of corn has pushed the price above the market price that the government had predicted in figuring the deficiency payment. Because the difference between the target price and market price is much less than expected, the deficiency payment for farmers harvesting their crop is much less.

Many farmers who stuck with their crops now have to refund part of the deficiency payment they got upfront. Some farm communities have been calling for the Agriculture Department to forgive these debts, something it cannot do under law.

The cost of allowing the flooded farmers into the 0/92 program will not be known for several months.

WASHINGTON TIMES JAN 03 1994

Firestorm victims expect year's wait, steady, slow return

By Joyce Price
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

1.A7

The Mystic Hills Homeowners Association, which represents the owners of many of the 366 homes destroyed by fire in Laguna Beach, Calif., in October, has set a target date of Labor Day for residents to get back into their rebuilt homes.

The homes lost in Laguna Beach were among 1,241 structures (primarily dwellings) destroyed in what's been dubbed Firestorm '93, a series of wildfires — many of them the work of arsonists — that raged throughout southern California during a two-week period, beginning Oct. 28.

The fires burned 197,225 acres in six counties — Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura — and million-dollar homes in such posh seaside communities as Laguna Beach and Malibu. There were 12 fires in Los Angeles County alone, according to a spokesman for the county fire department.

Three people died, and another 162 were injured in the blazes, which were fueled by large accumulations of brush and fanned by strong Santa Ana winds.

Fire losses totaled $1 billion, according to information provided by the California Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Gary Claussen, spokesman for the Office of Emergency Services, said he doubts few, if any, Californians have been able to return to homes that were either destroyed or heavily damaged by the flames. "It's too soon," he said. "They're living elsewhere until the construction's done."

Nearly 3,000 fire victims stayed in the 29 shelters that were operated by the Red Cross during the two weeks fires raged, Red Cross spokeswoman Stephanie Mayer said. No shelters remain open today.

"We also served 100,000 meals," Ms. Mayer said. "We gave people vouchers for clothing and replaced basic furniture; and we also put them up in new places. ... The total cost of all [Red Cross] assistance was $500,000."

Although many might assume the vast majority of southern California fire victims are wealthy and insured to the hilt, FEMA said it's received 1,000 applications for individual and family grants. Such grants are awarded to those who can't afford to pay back loans.

So far, FEMA has awarded 240 grants totaling nearly $1.5 million for fire victims. "To date, the Small Business Administration has approved nearly 500 low-interest loans — totaling $331 million for a variety of uninsured, home, business and personal property losses," said FEMA spokesman Alex Newton.

And unlike the situations in the aftermaths of Hurricane Hugo and Hurricane Andrew, when FEMA was heavily criticized for its response, Mr. Newton said there has "literally not been one complaint" about FEMA's performance from southern California fire victims.

Rich Dewberry, chief of the City of Laguna Beach Fire Department, said some residents of that community were among those assisted by FEMA, the state Office of Emergency Services and the Red Cross.

In Laguna Beach, there's been a "tremendous amount of progress" since the devastating fire, Chief Dewberry said. He noted that fire debris was cleaned up two weeks after the fire and that much of the normal government red tape was waived to put reconstruction of homes lost in the fire on a fast track.

ACCESS # SBEE530307
HEADLINE COST OF FIGHTING FALL FIRES STILL UNCLEAR S. CALIFORNIA PRICE TAG RUNS TO MILLIONS, BUT NOT LIKELY A RECORD
Byline: Los Angeles Daily News
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 3.3 Words: 413
DATE 01/02/94
SOURCE THE SACRAMENTO BEE (SBEE)
Edition: METRO FINAL
Section: METRO
Page: B5
Origin: LOS ANGELES

As burned-out canyon dwellers brace for winter storms, firefighting officials continue to add up the cost of fighting October and November's firestorms -- a bill that has reached an estimated $68 million thus far.

While that's a hefty price tag, the final total is unlikely to set any records, federal, state and local officials say.

For example, the California Department of Forestry ran up what may be the largest bill for any single agency -- an estimated $40 million to fight fires that burned almost 200,000 acres in six counties.

"Yeah, it's a lot, but compare it to last year: in 1992-93, we had emergency expenditures that totaled over $80 million because of the fires we had in the Redding area and in Calaveras County," said Kay Fagunes, CDF budget officer.

Part of this year's overtime, equipment and other costs will be paid from the department's emergency suppression fund, an annual budget allocation that this year totals $30 million, Faganes said.

Most firefighting agencies, including CDF, already have been
* partially reimbursed for their costs by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which ultimately will pay 75 percent of what are referred to as "extraordinary" costs, officials said.

Each agency became eligible for reimbursement on Oct. 26, when President Clinton declared a state of emergency, said FEMA spokesman Alex Newton.

On Nov. 3, as an army of 6,100 firefighters fought the still out-of-control Topanga-Malibu fire, FEMA officials announced that $15 million would be advanced to help pay the cost of fighting the brush fires.

Many firefighting officials expressed surprise at how quickly checks were issued by FEMA -- in some cases within days of the initial application.

"We prepared our estimate on Nov. 8, and they cut us a check on Nov. 12," said Clare Sletter, assistant chief for financial management with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. "FEMA was very responsive in this disaster."

Stung by critics who blasted FEMA's response to previous disasters as slow and burdened with red tape, agency officials have made an extra effort to speed up the entire process, Newton said.

"Everybody's saying, 'This really is a new FEMA, they really are trying to cut red tape and get checks into the hands of people who really need them,' " he said.

Since fire agencies still are adding up their costs and FEMA audits have yet to be performed, exactly how much the federal government will pay and how much of the cost local agencies will have to absorb is unclear.

MIAMI HERALD JAN 0 2 1995

Public-housing repairs inch forward

By CHARISSE L. GRANT
Herald Staff Writer

After enduring 15 months of trailer-home living following Hurricane Andrew, Sharon Henderson was thrilled she and her four children could finally move back to their South Dade public housing apartment. No more squeezing into the cramped beds, tiny bathroom and miniature living room.

"That first night back, I ran a hot tub and just sat there for awhile," said Henderson, whose Modello apartment is one of the 44 finished at the 120-unit complex in South Dade.

But Henderson is among the lucky ones.

"We're staying in these trailers for two Christmases," said Regina Ross, who along with her two children will likely be in their trailer at least another month. She's furious that her landlord — Dade County — hasn't finished work by now on the 30 townhouses at Wayside Gardens, where she lived before the storm. "It's a shame. All this money and we're still out here."

Charsi Jackson, 52, is in the same spot,

continued

because not one of the 116 units at the Naranja housing development where she lived before the hurricane is finished: "I'll deal with it because I don't have any choice."

The landlord, Metro's Department of Housing and Urban Development, has finished repairs on only one-third of about 920 units at the worst-hit developments for which the agency issued "emergency" repair contracts in October 1992.

Willa Walker and her husband, Johnnie Griffin, waited out the renovations to their two-bedroom Southridge townhouse at a housing development for the elderly in central Dade.

"We had one little room and a bedroom," said Walker, 49. "We didn't have a kitchen. They had a little hot plate."

Griffin's health is not very good, and it was rough having to travel eight floors every time he wanted to go outside.

"Now I can walk right out the door into my yard again," said Griffin, 65. "I don't bother nobody and nobody bothers me."

FEMA lifts trailer deadline

The latest progress report from Little HUD shows that tenants of about 300 units have returned home. Tenants waiting for another 340 apartments are still living in federal trailers or other housing they found after the storm.

Some other tenants have decided not to return to public housing.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency originally intended to have all the trailer homes pulled out by February. FEMA recently lifted that deadline.

"We will be here as long as there is a need," said FEMA spokesman Russ Edmonston.

Little HUD Director Greg Byrne pledged last week that enough renovations will be finished by the end of February to move all the residents back into public housing, although some may not get the same apartment they had before the storm.

"Over the next two months, every single person that was displaced will be back in a unit," he said.

When emergency contracts for $28.6 million were issued in October 1992, the intent was to fast-track the work. It hasn't worked out that way.

Slowdowns were caused by everything from the discovery of asbestos to delays in getting building permits to disputes over the quality of kitchen cabinets.

One contractor complained to Little HUD in an August letter that the agency was putting plans through so many rounds of approvals and rejections that "it would seem the intent of the [emergency] agreement has been lost."

Byrne agrees the delays have been frustrating — but also notes that many of them have been unavoidable, given the scale of the disaster. "We tried to compress something that is very difficult to compress," he said.

Asbestos caused the biggest single problem. The substance was used decades ago in the floors and ceilings of Little HUD apartments. It normally wouldn't cause major problems, but when the hurricane ripped apart so many buildings, it also stirred up the asbestos, which can cause cancer if breathed into the lungs.

Removing the asbestos, found in nearly every project, stalled work for up to six months.

Repairs on the 30 townhouses at Wayside Gardens at Southwest 160th Avenue and 290th Street were supposed to be done by the end of August. By the time the deadline arrived, the contractor was still waiting for a building permit.

"I spent a lot of time down there trying to push drawings through the bottlenecks," said Richard Polemeni, the project manager for Harrison Construction. Between asbestos removal and problems with roofing work done by a previous contractor, construction didn't even start until October.

Despite Byrne's pledge to have all work done by the end of February, it may take longer, Polemeni said.

"We want to get out of there as soon as possible," he said. "We're looking at probably realistically sometime in April, hopefully."

Crippling delays

Because asbestos was found at two of South Dade's largest projects, which total about 300 units, these apartments are not open yet.

Arthur Mays Village should be home to 184 families by now. A sign posted outside the project still reads: "Scheduled completion January 1994."

No chance.

The January date is already six months later than HUD stated in the "emergency" repair contract. If new projections hold up, the first 10 apartments should be done by the end of January and final work will go on until April.

Repairs to the 116 family apartments at Naranja are even further behind. The asbestos cleanup was finished just last month. As with Mays Village, the first handful of apartments won't be ready until the end of January. The last ones aren't due for completion until June.

The damage at Naranja was a double blow for Little HUD. As part of an effort to upgrade public housing throughout Dade, the agency had recently finished renovating one-third of the apartments there and moved families out to overhaul the rest — just before Andrew struck.

The same thing happened at Modello, where two-thirds of the 120 apartments had undergone complete renovations. A $1 million contract to finish the other units had been issued just before the hurricane, but work had not started. Little HUD had to double the budget to pay for the additional damage.

Gradually, despite all the problems, families are coming home and starting over.

Cynthia Greene and her four kids returned to Moody Village from Fort Lauderdale, where she moved because she couldn't find housing in Dade she could afford. She's grateful to be settled again, but says even after 15 months, it's hard to shake the memories of the storm's terror.

"At first I was a little shaky. The kids were scared," Greene said. "I think to them the house still looked horrifying. They thought there might be another hurricane."

For Angela James, waiting for repairs on her Southridge townhouse also meant uprooting her family and ... ading affordable housing in Jacksonville. Her home should be done soon, but for now she's content to stay with her mother, who recently moved back into the same development. What James can't make up for is the time lost moving around, which caused her children to lose a grade in school.

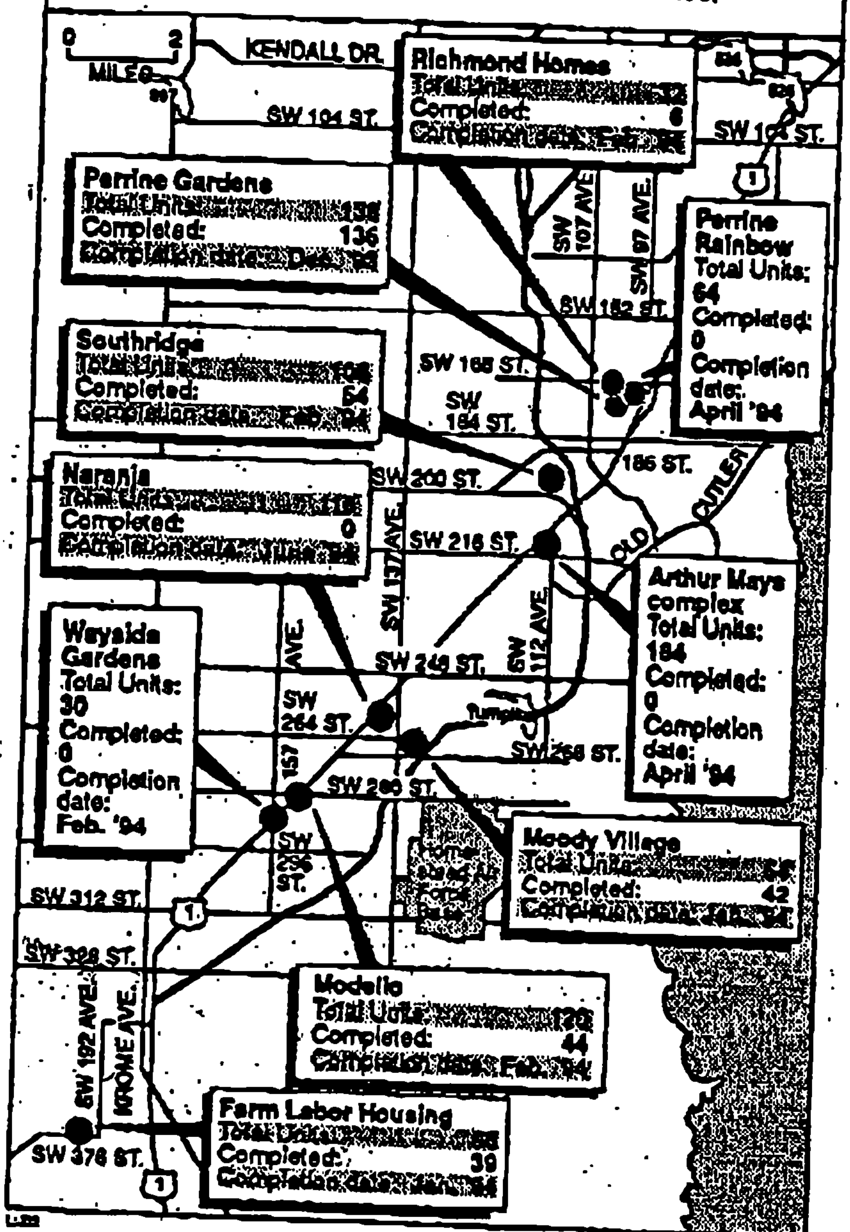
"They missed so many days right after the hurricane and they didn't start school until December," she said.

For Laressa Graham, it will be at least another month or two of being cooped up with three active kids, tripping over toys.

"They always ask me, 'When are we going to get a house?'" Graham said. "When I go back it will be the happiest day of my life and I can get my life back together."

REBUILDING PUBLIC HOUSING

Here is the status of repair work on about 920 Dade public housing units that were the worst hit by Hurricane Andrew. Sixteen months later, only about one-third are finished.



The Miami Herald

ACCESS # ORSE40010093
HEADLINE DISASTER FUND GOAL FOR CHILES THE GOVERNOR WANTS ALL STATE CHIEF EXECUTIVES TO PRESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A RESERVE.
Byline: Associated Press
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 3.7 Words: 459
DATE 01/01/94
SOURCE ORLANDO SENTINEL (ORSE)
Edition: 3 STAR
Section: LOCAL & STATE
Page: D1
Origin: TALLAHASSEE

Gov. Lawton Chiles wants the nation's governors to push for a federal catastrophe fund, which he says is needed to protect taxpayers from paying the price of cleaning up natural disasters.

The issue will be one of Chiles' top two or three concerns at the National Governors Association meeting this month in Washington, spokeswoman Jo Miglino said Thursday.

Florida had the nation's most expensive natural disaster - Hurricane Andrew, which left $16 billion in insured losses when it hit the Miami area in August 1992.

But it could have been worse, Chiles wrote last week in a letter to other governors.

"If Andrew had struck 20 miles further north, through the heart of Miami, losses easily could have exceeded $50 billion," he wrote.

The insurance industry announced plans to cancel more than 700,000 homeowners' policies, saying it could not absorb similar losses from another disaster and stay solvent.

The state responded with a moratorium to prevent the cancellations and then passed reforms, including a state catastrophe fund to help insurers survive disasters such as Andrew.

"Natural disasters are clearly not a problem unique to Florida," Chiles wrote. "Taking into account the potential for earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and floods, all states have some level of risk."

He cited worst-case scenarios ranging from a $26 billion hurricane in New Orleans to an $84 billion earthquake in San Francisco.

"Clearly the insurance industry of a single state or even the government of a single state cannot provide protection for losses of this magnitude," Chiles wrote. "Federal taxpayers are inevitably called upon to bear a portion of the costs of natural disasters."

He suggested a federal reinsurance fund as one way of minimizing the burden on taxpayers and urged the other governors to support legislation sponsored in Congress.

The fund would accumulate over several years and pay a fraction of claims in major disasters. The idea is to avoid crippling insurers hit with big losses.

* In July 1992, a study by the Federal Emergency Management Agency concluded the national economy and the insurance industry would survive a catastrophic earthquake, but damage of $40 billion could send some insurance companies into bankruptcy.

The study undercut claims by some industry trade groups that an earthquake calamity could weaken the industry so severely that it could not sell new policies to cover homes, automobiles or businesses.

Insurers have used the argument to support legislation that would set up a federal reinsurance fund to cover quake losses if damage exceeds the industry's ability to pay policyholders, said Gary Johnson, head of FEMA's earthquake and natural hazards office in Washington.

Insurance companies would pay premiums to the federal fund.

The report said there was not enough information now to determine whether such a program is justified.

ACCESS # POR40010324
HEADLINE AFTERSHOCK STRIKES K-FALLS, HITS 4.2
Byline: From staff and wire reports
LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 2.2 Words: 273
DATE 01/01/94
SOURCE PORTLAND OREGONIAN (POR)
Edition: FOURTH
Section: NORTHWEST
Page: E03

An aftershock to September earthquakes rumbled through this Southern Oregon city Friday morning, hitting 4.2 on the Richter scale. No damage or injuries were reported, but the quake adds to pervasive insecurity.

There have been hundreds of aftershocks since twin earthquakes rocked the area Sept. 20, but most have been too weak to be noticed. On Dec. 4, however, an earthquake that registered between 4.9 and 5.1 on the Richter scale did light damage to some buildings and rattled nerves.

"A lot of the people feel frustration," said Ed Dolan, director of Klamath County Emergency Services. "You get over fire and hurricanes, but you don't get over earthquakes because they keep coming back to bite you."

Friday's quake rattled windows and widened a few cracks. It occurred at 10:09 a.m. and was centered about 15 miles northwest of the city, the same area as the initial quake.

"Our desks were shaking really bad," said Chris Collman, who works for a downtown answering service. "We looked across the street and those windows were bowing in and out."

Even though no major damage was done by the quake, Dolau said, buildings would have to be reinspected to find out if they have been weakened further. Inspectors for the Federal Emergency Management Administration are expected in Klamath Falls next week to examine damage from past quakes, and they also will assess any damage from the most recent tremor.

The Sept. 20 quakes registered 6.0 on the Richter scale, did millions of dollars in damage and resulted in one death.

The earthquakes have rattled Klamath Basin residents because the area has little history of noticeable seismic activity.

THE NEW YORK TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 3, 1994

STATIONS SOUGHT TO WARN OF WAVES

Agency Aims to Create System to Monitor Giant Tsunamis

All

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2 (AP) — Federal scientists want to place stations on the Pacific Ocean floor that could rapidly relay warnings of giant, destructive waves caused by earthquakes off the northwestern United States.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has proposed creating four warning stations for the waves, called tsunamis. One would be placed off the Alaska coast and three would be placed off the Northwest coast.

The first $100,000 station could be operating in 1995, with the rest operating by the year 2000, said Edward N. Bernard, director of the agency's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. It would cost $250,000 a year to maintain the stations, he said.

Tsunamis, sometimes called tidal waves, are caused not by tides but by a sudden undersea disruption like an earthquake or volcanic eruption. Vibrations from the disturbance create waves that bunch up and gain height as they reach shallower waters. Sometimes building over thousands of miles, they can reach as high as 50 feet and move as fast as a jetliner.

Scientists say a large earthquake in what is known as the Cascadia subduction zone could send tsunamis into Northern California towns like Eureka and Crescent City.

'Superquakes' in Ocean

Numerous studies show that during the past 7,000 years as many as 13 "superquakes" measuring 8 or 9 on the Richter scale of ground motion ruptured the 1,000-mile-long Cascadia subduction zone, where plates of Earth's crust collide off the coasts of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northernmost California.

And tsunamis created by smaller or more distant quakes have damaged California cities, Mr. Bernard said. Twelve-foot waves hit Crescent City, Calif., several hours after the Alaska earthquake of March 27, 1964, killing 10 people, injuring 35 and destroying 150 buildings. The earthquake, which had a magnitude of 8.4 on the Richter scale, killed 131 people.

The agency would put its stations on the ocean floor about two and a half miles below the surface. Each station would send a signal to a surface buoy indicating the size, speed and direction of the waves.

The buoy would send the information to satellites or the agency's land stations in Alaska and Hawaii, which would relay warnings to threatened communities. Within seconds, cities in California, Alaska, Oregon, Washington and western Canada could be notified of danger.

For the warnings to be effective, cities must determine the likely paths of tsunamis once they hit land and plan evacuation routes, said Richard McCarthy, senior engineering geologist with the California Seismic Safety Commission.

ACCESS # SBEE530104
HEADLINE GUARD CHIEFS: CUTS A THREAT TO READINESS HURT RIOT, DISASTER RESPONSE

Byline: Steve Gibson Bee Staff Writer

LENGTH ESTIMATED INFORMATION UNITS: 5.3 Words: 721
DATE 01/01/94
SOURCE THE SACRAMENTO BEE (SBEE)

Edition: METRO FINAL
Section: METRO
Page: B1

California National Guard leaders fear the Pentagon's plan to trim the size of the National Guard and Army Reserve could restrict the Guard's ability to respond to urban unrest and natural disasters in California.

"We need to retain the type of force necessary to be California's insurance policy in case of fire, flood, earthquake and civil disturbances," Maj. Gen. Tandy Bozeman said.

"Nobody knows for sure yet what the impact of (the cuts) will be, but we hope (the state) won't lose more than its equitable share," Bozeman said. "We're already programmed to lose 28 percent" in the California Army National Guard by 1996.

Bozeman, the Guard's top officer, and Brig. Gen. Bob Brandt, second-in-command, discussed their concerns during an interview at Guard headquarters in Sacramento.

Although "we don't know yet what the official plan is," Bozeman said he suspects the Pentagon wants to move an Army Reserve aviation unit with more than 70 helicopters at Los Alamitos, a suburb in Orange County, out of the state.

Rather than leave California, Bozeman said he wants that Army Reserve unit, the 214th Aviation Battalion, instead to merge its personnel and aircraft with existing Guard units in Southern California.

"It is not to the benefit of California and the protection of its citizens that the reserve aviation unit be pulled out of California," Bozeman said. "Keeping them here would give us an advantage in case of disaster."

Brandt agreed.

"We think this is an issue of public safety -- and that's our main business in California," Brandt said. "We want to work very closely with the Army Reserve to try to make this transition as smooth as possible -- combine both the people and the aircraft.

"It's not a National Guard issue or an Army Reserve issue," he said. "It's a California issue. When the dust all settles and the Guard is smaller, we want the California Guard to still be able to perform its mission."

The California Guard, with a total of 24,000 members, has lost more than 2,200 soldiers during the past year, most of them in the 40th Infantry Division. It operates on a $440 million budget, with 95 percent coming from the Pentagon.

Without giving specifics, the Pentagon announced Dec. 10 that the Army Guard and Army Reserve would lose about 127,000 jobs over the next six years, with some units scattered across the country being disbanded.

Under the proposal, the Guard and Reserve would get smaller and be more tightly focused on specific missions. The plan, however, has yet to be accepted by Congress, since local Guard units provide jobs and pump substantial amounts of money into the economy.

For example, estimated Guard expenditures in California this year are $460 million, according to Guard figures. Locally, the Guard estimates its annual economic impact on Sacramento County at $21.7 million; Solano County, $1.6 million; El Dorado County, $351,826; Placer County, $1.8 million; Yolo County, $346,578; Butte County, $1.1 million; and Sutter County, $431,602.

Anticipating the Pentagon's proposal, California's two U.S. senators and 52 members of Congress fired off a letter Nov. 19 to the chief of the Army National Guard, voicing concern and urging equity for the state.

"In 1993, California received a 24 percent reduction while only an 8 percent total National Guard reduction was mandated by Congress," the letter said.

"California, as the recent fires illustrate, has a unique potential for natural disasters," the letter added. "The California National Guard plays a vital role in response to these state emergencies. We encourage you to consider a fair and equitable plan for any future force reductions."

In pointing to accomplishments during the past year, Bozeman cited what he described as a revised and "materially improved" plan to respond to riots and better coordinate with local law enforcement agencies.

This is due, Bozeman said, to a series of emergency readiness exercises with local police, the 6th U.S. Army, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state Office of Emergency Services.

The new emphasis on readiness comes in the wake criticism when the Guard admittedly was caught unprepared for the 1992 riots in Los Angeles.

"We do that job better now," Bozeman said.