

Supervisors adopt standards requiring retrofits

By Scott Swanson
Staff Writer

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Owners of buildings that do not meet state earthquake safety standards will have to reinforce their structures to state standards, county supervisors decided recently.

The board, with little comment, unanimously adopted an ordinance that will require building owners to bring their structures up to earthquake-resistant standards, most by the year 2000.

The ordinance amends the coun-

ty's building code to bring it into conformity with the California Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1986, also known as the Unreinforced Masonry (URM) Building Law.

The law requires cities and the county to inventory all unreinforced masonry buildings and establish programs to mitigate the earthquake hazards posed by those buildings.

Local cities have already implemented such programs. The board action applies to building in unincorporated areas of the county like Ni-

pomo and Oceano.

The county has already identified 62 buildings as potentially hazardous in a moderate or major earthquake, 17 of them in the South County.

Owners of those buildings will be required to either strengthen the structures to resist earthquakes, change the use, vacate them, or tear them down.

The ordinance does not apply to single family residences, duplexes and detached apartment houses with fewer than five dwelling units. It

also will not apply to state and federal buildings, or "essential" and "hazardous" facilities such as hospitals.

The ordinance adopted by the board was a revised version of one supervisors approved in concept on Feb. 11.

Jim Casper, a county building official, told board members that the new version of the ordinance allows building owners four more years to comply with the earthquake standards than the former draft did. Supervisors directed staff at the

February hearing to relax the time-frame requirements for complying with the earthquake standards.

Board members in February were concerned about several issues relating to the ordinance: the cost of reinforcing the structures, the need to preserve historic buildings, the need to keep such buildings safe for occupants, and the fact that the state has not yet officially adopted its earthquake standards.

Casper said that all affected building owners will have between
(Continued on page 11)

Paid Political Advertisement

Vote "Yes" on Measure A

Can you afford \$100.00 a month for water?

Mr. Ray stated, "Your water bill is going to be 4 (four) times as much."

Average bill \$20 x 4 = \$80. Plus \$20 for sewer.

Did you know: the NCS D board members are paid \$100.00 for every meeting. They can call a meeting, shake hands, and have their \$100.00. Where will you get yours? If you can't pay this every month, starting 3 months after the election, will you be among the homeless? The homeless cycle starts this way.

Save your voting stubs. Keep this election honest.

Paid for by Al and Jackie Neary
745 Ridge Road, Nipomo CA 93444

HIPOMO'S ADOBE PRESS

Dedicated to serving the
Nipomo Community...
circulation 5,400

Published by South County
Publishing Co., Inc., P.O. Box
460, Arroyo Grande, California
Published twice a month on
the second and fourth Fridays
(except on certain holidays).

Deadline for news and
advertising: 5 p.m. on the
Mondays preceding the second
and fourth Fridays.

Mail news and ads to
ADOBE PRESS
P.O. Box 460,
Arroyo Grande CA 93421

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
In San Luis Obispo County,
\$8.00 per year; \$4.50 for 6
months (payable in advance).
Outside San Luis Obispo County,
\$10.00 per year; \$6.00 for 6
months (payable in advance).

Dick Blankenburg, Editor
Cindy Blankenburg, News Editor
Cindy Hodgson, Advertising

PHONE TOLL FREE 489-4206