



# FEMA

## *Contra Costa Food Bank Relocation New Building for Contra Costa Food Bank*

**San Francisco, CA** - On Oct. 17, 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter Scale rocked the San Francisco Bay area. It was felt by millions of people in a 400,000-square-mile area. Sixty-three people died because of the earthquake, and 13,757 persons were injured.

Shelters accommodated thousands of people who needed food, lodging and other necessities, but responding agencies and local resources were quickly overwhelmed. The Contra Costa Food Bank, a Bay Area organization, was called upon to assist in the massive response to the widespread emergency. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake, officials realized they had to either relocate or retrofit the building they had used, which is located close to a major Bay Area fault. A community-wide campaign generated \$3 million in donations from private and public sources to pay for a new location in a seismically safe structure.

Constructed in 1997, the building that now houses the food bank met selection criteria and all other needs. It was built to meet the latest codes for construction to earthquake-safe standards, including reinforcement of floors. Another \$55,000 was invested in non-structural mitigation. This included installation of storage racks, donated by a local business. Manually controlled skylights were installed to act as vents to release smoke in the event of a fire.

The cost of purchase of the building was \$2.5 million. It offers protection to inventory, which totals an average of \$6 million in value annually. The building offers a safer place to work thus reducing risk of loss of life and injury to food bank employees and workers. It also provides potentially uninterrupted service to the community in the event of emergencies and disasters.



**Contra Costa County,  
California**



### **Quick Facts**

Year:

**1989**

Sector:

**Public**

Cost:

**\$2,550,000.00 (Estimated)**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Land Use/Planning**

Primary Funding:

**Private funds**