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Release: Immediately

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A major earthquake occurred off the coast of Japan which is projected to cause a Tsunami in the California coastal areas.

At approximately 6:40 am the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operation Center issued an evacuation advisory for residents in the Tsunami inundation zone. Residents were advised to evacuate and move to higher ground.

The Red Cross has established reception areas at the following locations within Santa Cruz County:

North Coast Area - Davenport Fire Department

Capitola – The Community Center at Jade Street Park,

City of Santa Cruz – Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium.

South Coast Area – Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds

Road closure information can be access at www.sccroadclosure.org.

All beaches along Santa Cruz County are currently closed. Residents are asked to stay away from the coastal areas until the authorities give the all clear which may take as long as 10 to 12 hours after the initial wave.

Refer to the Santa Cruz County website at <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us> for further information and updates.