



NEWS FROM

PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

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Lest We Forget: 5:04 P.M. *Cypress Freeway Memorial Park Opens*

Oakland, Ca. The Loma Prieta Earthquake rocked the Bay Area on October 17, 1989, causing death and destruction throughout the region. In Oakland, the two-tiered Cypress Freeway collapsed, killing some outright and trapping others as the top portion fell sandwiching them between the layers. Immediately, volunteers from the neighborhood began scaling the fallen structure to rescue survivors. On Monday, October 17, 2005, at 5:04 P.M., the community is invited to join survivors, heroic citizens, the West Oakland Community, and public officials to celebrate the opening of Cypress Freeway Memorial Park at a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

Memorial Park is constructed with wave like patterns including a sculpture of three ladders that twist as they reach for the sky. The park's design is symbolic of how the earthquake felt and the plants and plaques illustrate the community's memory of the day. Located on the west side of Mandela Parkway between 13th and 14th Streets, Cypress Freeway Memorial Park is a designated rest stop along the newly completed West Oakland Bay Trail that extends from Broadway to Mandela Parkway. The ceremony will also feature the dedication of the new Bay Trail wayfinding map and five historic markers.

"This park honors the people who died as a result of the Cypress Freeway collapse and the heroic actions of the community in the minutes following the quake," said Councilmember Nancy Nadel. "The community has worked tirelessly with the design architects and City staff to make this historic project happen. The park's location as a destination and stop along the Bay Trail is a perfect setting for walkers and bikers to discover the park, rest, and learn about the events surrounding the traumatic Earthquake of 1989," said Nadel.

Who: Survivors, Heroic Citizens, West Oakland Community, and public officials

What: Cypress Freeway Memorial Park Ribbon Cutting
West Oakland Bay Trail Dedication

When: Monday, October 17, 2005
4:45 P.M. (Program begins at 5:04 P.M. SHARP)

Where: Cypress Freeway Memorial Park
Mandela Parkway (between 13th & 14th Streets)
West Oakland

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