

College of the Redwoods acquires tsunami siren, is searching for installation funds

Jessica Cejnar, Eureka Times-Standard, 5-5-11

With the possibility that part of its campus could be inundated by a tsunami, College of the Redwoods has acquired a siren and is looking for funds to help install it.

Once it is installed, the siren will be able to warn people both on campus and in the immediate area that a tsunami is on its way, said Paul Agpawa, CR's director of technology infrastructure and the co-chair of the emergency preparedness and safety committee.

The college is currently exploring a grant with Pacific Gas and Electric Co., which had donated the sirens to the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, and other sources to install the siren. According to Agpawa, the cost for the installation and the controller would be about \$8,000.

The college's emergency preparedness committee has been looking at several ways to implement a mass notification system for tsunamis since before the massive earthquake and tsunami struck Japan, Agpawa said. The siren was donated to CR by the Office of Emergency Services and the National Weather Service. Once the siren is installed, OES will be in charge of triggering it.

"We felt a tsunami siren was critical because part of our parking lot could be in the zone itself," Agpawa said. "A tsunami siren is good for us and the surrounding community."

Once the college has obtained the funds to install it, the siren will likely be placed on one of the buildings CR is currently constructing. According to Dan Larkin, OES program coordinator, the college's main parking lot could be impacted by a tsunami produced by a massive earthquake off the Humboldt County coast.