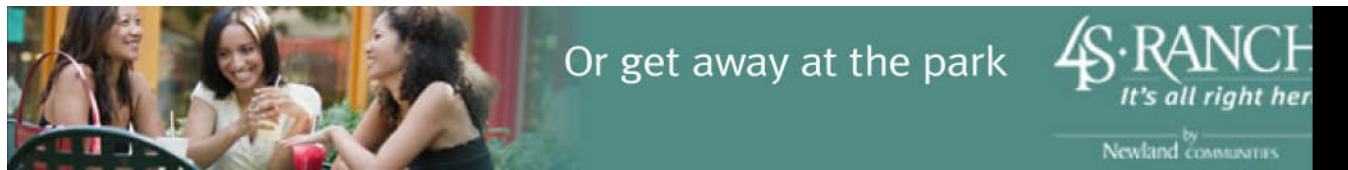


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By **Mark Sauer**

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

8:45 p.m. October 5, 2007

SAN DIEGO – Geologists continued Friday to probe the causes of the landslide on the eastern slope of Soledad Mountain as the first legal claim in the disaster was filed by a family whose home was destroyed.

Ross Clark, whose home on Desert View Drive was crushed in Tuesday's landslide, filed a claim with the City of San Diego saying the city's negligence in failing to monitor and repair leaking water pipes on a hillside known to be unstable caused the disaster, said Clark's attorney, Craig McClellan.

The lawyer asked that "water system hardware," including pipes, connections, valves, etc., plus fire hydrants, be "preserved and cataloged" as evidence.

In the meantime, state officials were processing the San Diego City Council's request that the site be declared a disaster area.

The state has to petition the federal government on the city's behalf for emergency relief funding to shore up and rebuild Soledad Mountain Road.

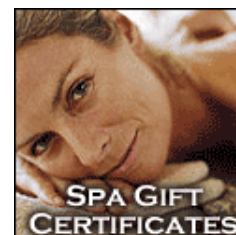
Mayor Jerry Sanders has scheduled a 9:30 a.m. community forum Saturday at Pacific Beach Middle School, 4676 Ingraham St.

Afterward, Sanders is to meet with the area's congressman, Brian Bilbray, R-Carlsbad for a tour of the damaged area.

■ Mark Sauer: (619) 293-2227; mark.sauer@uniontrib.com

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