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### NEWSLINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

#### The Chico City Council has held

two informational sessions related to the communities planned for Chico. Tuesday, more than half of the 10 speakers addressing the dais were from Cessna Avenue, a neighborhood in unicorporated Butte County near the Hegan Lane development. Most voiced concerns about traffic congestion and safety.

JD Estep told the panel it recently took her 45 minutes to drive about one mile, from her home to Park Avenue. "That's the kind of crazy it is right now, and that's in ideal conditions," she said.

Others, however, urged FEMA to get moving. Joe Mack, who manages one of the south Chico industrial properties, appeared exasperated. There has been no activity, no dirt turned since a lease was signed six weeks ago, he said.

"My question is, when are we going to break ground, get one person housed?" he said. "Then we'll all come back here and complain about it."

In response to the public's comments, Horvath said he understands the community's pain and frustration, and wishes the process was quicker. It takes an average of four months for FEMA to set up such communities once a lease is signed, he added.

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"This housing mission is a really tough mission, to meet all the environmental requirements, the permitting, working with the water district ... working with PG&E, the requirements to trench all power underground," he said.

In the meantime, families are stuck in limbo. Malloy has been getting to know her new neighbors, bringing them meals and care packages to welcome them to their makeshift neighborhood. She and her husband don't want to uproot their children, but are concerned it'll take too long for FEMA housing to become available. They won't be making any decisions until the summer.

"It is [hard], but there are people in worse situations than I am. ... we're coming into our new normal."

> —ASHIAH SCHARAGA ashiahs@newsreview.com