

U.S. census overlooks E. Palo Alto

By Ann Gibbons
Times Tribune staff

EAST PALO ALTO — This community of about 19,000 was completely overlooked by the U.S. Census when it sent out its forms last April, said the director of San Mateo County's census office Tuesday.

Because mailing lists the U.S. Census bought were inaccurate, the census skipped East Palo Alto when it mailed official census forms, said Chuck Fuentes, newly appointed district manager of the Burlingame-based census operation. The Burlingame office is responsible for covering San Mateo County and part of San Francisco.

While officials in the community say their community will lose federal money because of the undercount, Fuentes said the original negligence has been offset by a thorough recánvassing of the area.

Fuentes said he and John Reeder, the assistant regional director of the U.S. Census, have made East Palo Alto their special charge.

Workers at the Burlingame office apparently hand-addressed forms to East Palo Alto residents after walking door-to-door to obtain correct addresses.

"We've taken extra steps," said Fuentes. "I don't know what more I can do to answer East Palo Alto's questions."

"They are getting more attention and a better census count because of the extra, unnecessary steps we're taking to make sure it has been done completely accurately."

East Palo Alto Municipal Council Chairman Brad Stamper, however,

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