

Sausalito art fest gets its hands on palms



IJ photo/Marian Little Utley

TRAVELING TREES: Steve Holben operates crane to unload palm trees borrowed for use during Sausalito Art Festival

S.F. trees trucked across Golden Gate

By Paul Liberatore

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Fifteen well-traveled palm trees were delivered to the Sausalito Art Festival Wednesday — on loan from the city of San Francisco.

The 24-foot-tall, 1,500-pound palms were trucked across the Golden Gate Bridge and placed in various locations on the festival grounds on the Sausalito waterfront.

A Santa Rosa company called Neon Palm Nursery accomplished the task us-

ing a crane and a forklift.

"They look marvelous," said Cindy Cione of the Sausalito Chamber of Commerce. "They are especially nice since the art festival uses palm trees on its logo."

The festival will celebrate its 40th anniversary this Labor Day Weekend.

"They will add a wonderful scale and elegance to the festival," said Michael Rex, the event's site architect.

Rex has dreamed of having live palm trees on the treeless festival grounds at Bridgeway and Harbor Drive for the past 10 years. Last year, he would have settled

for a pair of 18-foot-tall inflatable palms, but the festival committee thought the \$5,000 price tag was too steep.

Rex discovered the full-grown palms lined up against a fence one day while at Golden Gate Park with his family. They were waiting there until they could be planted in the Mission District as part of a neighborhood improvement project.

The trees, dubbed the Mission District Palms, have been in the news before. Originally ordered for the Marina District, they were rejected by residents there who thought they were out of place.