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## Calif. cities 'adopting' Gulf cities for rebuilding

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Palo Alto, Calif., "adopted" Kenner and will help with Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery.

The Public Affairs Council of Louisiana is helping match California cities with Gulf Coast communities in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Palo Alto and Kenner are similar in size, Jim Brandt of PAR said.

"There are lots of other cities that want to help," Brandt said.

PAR is acting strictly as matchmaker. The group is getting a hand in Mississippi from the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University.

Right now, Brandt said, there are no hard-and-fast guidelines for matching cities; it's case by case.

"We'll consider size," he said.

PAR's role doesn't go beyond the matching process. It's up to the cities to agree on what form the aid will take. Kenner and Palo Alto ended up being matched because Renata Falk, a former PAR employee, now works for the city of Palo Alto.

Brandt's former colleague phoned him saying her new city wanted to contribute something to the relief effort and suggested the adoption idea.

Cities interested in participating should complete the Hurricane Relief form on the Palo Alto Web site <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/katrinaa/>) and e-mail it to [renata.falk@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:renata.falk@cityofpaloalto.org).