

U.S. probes company's pay methods

Federal investigators are probing alleged irregularities in the way wages were paid by subcontractors during construction of a federally subsidized 500-unit apartment complex at Mariner's Cove.

Fred Stillions, public affairs specialist in Los Angeles for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said the investigation

was begun after two carpenters complained that they were underpaid in violation of federal Labor Department policies while employed by Rainbow Construction Co., of Hemet.

The U.S. attorney's office also is looking into the matter.

Mark Unterberg and Alan Samson said they and other carpenters working for the company were paid from

\$5 to \$15 an hour below the federally guaranteed \$20.99 hourly wage. Also being investigated is the way payroll records were kept.

In connection with the probe, Rainbow has paid \$20,000 in back wages owed to workers, but according to Dan Oppermann, HUD regional labor relations officer in San Francisco, \$47,000 more is owed.