

his resignation will elevate

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The Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor Getting A Facelift

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The Santa Cruz small craft harbor is getting a \$200,000 to \$300,000 facelift.

The 13-year-old docks in the lower harbor have begun to sink, according to Gerald Barney, harbormaster.

So, workers — aided by a 53-foot boat — have begun to lift sections of the floating dock and replace the styrofoam underneath it.

Barney estimates the entire project will take six months and necessitate the moving of approximately 360 boats.

The harbor equipment has an expected life span of 15 years, according to Barney.

Once it reaches that point, things have to be replaced — like the flotation material and pilings.

Pilings will be encased in metal

pipe to prevent wear. That reconstruction move costs 20 per cent of what it would cost to replace the pilings, said Barney.

The replacement of flotation material under the dock will save millions of dollars, according to Barney. If the dock rotted from being in the water as a result of sinking, it would cost \$2 to \$3 million to replace, he estimated.

"We're going to lose the whole works if we don't fix it now," said Barney.

The state has agreed to suspend two years of loan payments in order to get the work done in the lower harbor, said Barney.

That is how the port district is able to afford the work.

He said work will include the styrofoam replacement, casing the pil-

ings and adding mercury-vapor floodlights to each of the docks. Workers were already working on the project Tuesday.

Using a converted military landing craft on loan from the Army Corps of Engineers, workers lift the dock from the water enough so the styrofoam can be lodged under it.

The 10-inch orange foam will lift the dock about four inches from its present level, said Barney.

He also pointed to the worn-out pilings which have been carved thin by the action of waves and tide.

The harbor will notify owners that the work is being done and that they should move their boats.

However, if the boats are not moved, "We will move them," said Barney.