

Aptos church plan stalls

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By **JOHN SANFORD**
Sentinel staff writer

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APTOS — More than nine months after Resurrection Catholic Community church submitted expansion plans to the county Planning Department, it's still unclear when or if a new church will be approved.

The church originally sought to move more than 100 graves at neighboring Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery, better known as Calvary Cemetery, which dates to the mid-1800s. That controversial element of the plan was shelved last year, however, said the Rev. Peter Crivello.

In September, church officials submitted a new plan that does not require moving any graves.

However, the proposed project is still close to the historic graveyard and calls for careful review, said Cathy Graves, county development review planner. She said the delay was not unusual "for a project of that complexity."

The Planning Department must review the placement of driveways, parking and access at the planned church, Graves said. Grading, construction and traffic also must be examined, she said.

She said she did not think any of these would create a major roadblock.

"I don't anticipate that any of them would kill the project," she said. "But it does need to be looked at."

A public hearing also must be held, Graves said, and that usually happens three to six months after the county has deemed an application complete.

As it stands, the county Historic Resources Commission is still reviewing the church's historic preservation plan regarding the cemetery, Graves said. An environmental review also has yet to be started.

"It's going well. It just takes an incredible amount of time," Crivello said. "Ultimately, what the (Planning Department) is trying to do is look at any impact. ... It's really for the sake of good planning."

Neither Crivello or Graves would estimate when the project will be up for final approval.

Meanwhile, the church has been busy raising money for the project. "We've raised close to \$2 million in pledges," Crivello said.

He said parishioners are aiming to raise \$2.5 million.

He said plans are for a roughly 10,000-square-foot building on the church property at Soquel and State Park drives.

It would be "a kind of cruciform" with an octagon in the center, Crivello said. The old building would serve as a community and education center for the parish while continuing to house church offices, he said.