

Beach plan draws fire

Beach Flats

■ **Santa Cruz:** Scores call expansion of Boardwalk a damaging giveaway.

BY JOHN WOOLFOLK
Mercury News Staff Writer

SJm 9-16-98

✓ Santa Cruz's seven-year effort to revitalize its beach district met a tide of opposition Tuesday as scores of residents lined up before the city council to denounce it.

The plan would raze old apartments to make way for expansion of the Boardwalk amusement park. In exchange, park owners would offer assistance in developing new affordable housing. The plan also calls for a major new hotel, shopping center, parking garages and neighborhood parks.

About 500 people attended the meeting, many with car-shaped sandwich boards and signs that said "Gridlock is Not Inevitable" and "Don't Bulldoze Houses for more Tourists."

Public interest was so great that the hearing was held at the Civic Auditorium, and a second meeting was scheduled there Thursday. If it is approved Thursday, developers will be able to offer bids on specific plans outlined in the proposal.

See **BEACH**, Page 4B