

VISION

SANTA CRUZ

✓ Visions of town coalesce

By KEITH MURAOKA

Sentinel staff writer

3-4-90

SANTA CRUZ — Ideas — or more appropriately, "visions" — have come pouring into Vision Santa Cruz, the 36-member coalition brainstorming the rebuilding of the city's downtown area.

Having already given up their Friday and Saturday nights, Vision Santa Cruz will present those ideas at a third public workshop today. It will run from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Santa Cruz High School gymnasium.

Issues already being worked on include building-design guidelines, opportunity sites for land use and housing, improving circulation, and extending the "garden" atmosphere of the Pacific Garden Mall.

To those ends, ideas have ranged from encouraging co-op housing, where store owners live upstairs, to attracting the "right" businesses and watching out for too many places where people could hang out.

Consultant Donlyn Lyndon said Saturday he is impressed both with the quality and quantity of ideas. While he told the more than 150 persons at Saturday's meeting that ideas are merely "tentative thoughts" at this point, they will help formulate future goals and objectives.

Tentative goals were formulated at Friday's workshop. They include:

- Establishing design guidelines for building renovation and new construction. Goals should include maintaining general consistency with existing buildings, but, at the same time, allow for diversity in expression and character. The integrity of historically significant buildings will be respected, and parking requirements should be reviewed to guarantee that enough is provided without discouraging rebuilding.

- Expand the idea of the Pacific Garden Mall to include all of downtown. This can be accomplished by using planting areas to connect areas by extending planting areas east and west of Pacific Avenue.

- Provide community gathering places downtown in the form of building entryways, small courtyards, outdoor cafes, outdoor performance space, plazas, a performing arts center, parks and trails.

- Care should be taken to maintain the balance of places to shop, walk and meet acquaintances. This can be done by encouraging mixed land uses, and encouraging business opportunities that enhance the local care that has gone into creating downtown Santa Cruz.

- Develop housing for people of different income levels. Housing should be replaced for those residents displaced by the Oct. 17 earthquake. Existing downtown buildings could be rehabilitated for housing, where appropriate.

- Improve accessibility between downtown, the County Center, the river, beach and UC Santa Cruz.