

Ben Lomond - 1990

SJMN 9-9-94-9

Ben Lomond plan becoming a reality

■ Improvements:

Burying power lines will be the town's first project.

BY TERRI MORGAN
Special to the Mercury News

Ben Lomond residents next month will see the start of the first of four long-awaited improvements detailed in the town plan.

Work crews will begin a six-month project in October to put utility wires underground. Power poles on Mill Street, Main Street, and Highway 9 between those two side streets will be removed and the lines buried.

The \$1.2 million project is being funded by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Drafted in 1990, the Ben Lomond Town Plan also calls for

improved traffic flow through the heart of the San Lorenzo Valley community, and a promenade in front of River Park on Mill Street. More than 400 residents participated in a series of public meetings that led to the development of the plan, which provides a blueprint for Ben Lomond improvements.

"Every one of these projects was in the town plan," said Supervisor Fred Keeley, who represents the San Lorenzo Valley. "They were all designed to enhance the small-town, relatively relaxed, pedestrian-oriented historic downtown area."

Traffic safety improvements at the north and south ends of downtown are set to begin next spring. The Mill Street-Highway 9 intersection at the north end of town will be reconfigured slightly to slow southbound motorists turning right off the highway into

The town's first traffic light will be installed at the Mill Street-Glen Arbor Road-Hwy. 9 intersection to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

the downtown district.

The town's first traffic light will be installed at the Mill Street-Glen Arbor Road-Highway 9 intersection at the other end of the downtown district to improve traffic and pedestrian safety. Although residents had initially rejected plans for a traffic signal, they later asked that the town plan include one.

The cost for traffic safety improvements is expected to run about \$300,000, Keeley said. He

has secured federal, state and local funds to pay for those projects.

Santa Cruz County has also been promised about \$30,000 in a transportation grant to pay for the construction of a pedestrian area in front of River Park, also known as the Ben Lomond Dam Park. When that funding is received, a sidewalk, curb and gutter will be built on Mill Street in front of the park, and landscaping will be planted.