

Seagate wins OK on design

The Design Review Commission Monday approved Seagate Technology's preliminary plans for a disk drive assembly plant consisting of two buildings at Airport Boulevard and Nielson Road.

The commission said it found Seagate's site plan, landscaping, architecture and aesthetics appropriate. The company's next step is to secure building permits for construction.

The first phase of the project is scheduled to begin in September with the construction of the outer shell of Seagate's main manufacturing facility, a 207,000-square-foot building. Completion of the interior is expected by May 1984.

Plans call for a second building, a two-story, 150,000-square-foot structure, that will house administrative offices and some manufacturing space. Completion is expected by January 1985.

A 10,000-square-foot cafeteria with an outdoor deck is also planned.

Parking lots for 1,049 cars will cover half of the 20-acre site. The buildings will cover 35 percent and landscaping will cover 15 percent.

Seagate has agreed, at the recommendation of the state Department of Fish and Game, to leave a gully as is at the southwest end of the site. Fish and Game officials told the company that the gully, where a parking lot had been planned, is the last riparian habitat in the area. David Zulim, a Santa Cruz engineer heading up the project, said the company had no objections to leaving the area in its natural state and redesigned its parking plan. The outdoor deck around the cafeteria building will overhang part of the area.

Answering questions raised by the city's planning staff, Seagate's report and Zulim said the plant will operate around the clock but 95 percent of the employees will work 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The additional traffic, particularly at rush hours, may make a traffic light necessary at Airport Boulevard and Nielsen Road, the report said.

The report also said air quality will be affected by the estimated 2,600 daily automobile trips in and out of the area. The manufacturing process itself is not expected to affect air quality, however.

Of the 1,200 employees planned, Seagate expects 900 to be unskilled assemblers, laborers and clerical personnel. The company said it expects most to be hired from within a 15-mile radius of the plant. Unskilled workers will be paid between \$4 and \$7 per hour, a rate the company calls competitive for the electronics industry in the area.

In other action Monday, the Design Review Commission approved the plans by the Santa Cruz Housing Authority for four federally funded low-income housing developments that will total 70 units.

The commission voted 4-0, with commissioner Charles Reinhart absent, to approve plans that include several bay windows in the duplex units. However, the commission also approved the project without the windows if it turns out the budget cannot be stretched far enough to include them.

The projects are: 24 units on Pennsylvannia Drive, 16 units on Crestview Drive near Madison Street, 14 units near the Madonna Vista development on Clifford Avenue and 16 units on Blackburn Street.

The city planning commission approved the project Friday afternoon.

Voters approved a referendum in 1980 to allow construction of 80 units of low- to moderate-income housing. The Housing Authority will rent out the units for 30 years and will be responsible for all exterior maintenance.