

# Capitola begins survey of historic buildings

A \$9,700 contract for a historic building survey was approved Thursday night by the Capitola City Council.

The contract was awarded to Charles Rowe and Associate, 3554 Paul Sweet Road, Santa Cruz.

The city asked for proposals from firms interested in doing the historical survey as the first step in preparing a national historical district application.

The council decided to pursue the historical designation for the village and surrounding older residential areas as one way to ease building restrictions imposed on the city by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in "flood plain areas."

The federal agency has demanded that new construction and rebuilding be restricted in the village and other parts of the city subject to flooding by Soquel Creek as one way of cutting the federal government's liability in the case of natural disasters.

City councilmen have argued unsuccessfully that such restrictions mean that historical buildings in the city, such as the Venetian Courts or the Six Sisters on the Esplanade, could not be rebuilt or even preserved.

Federal officials have refused to exempt the city from the requirements, but the law does allow such an exemption for historical buildings or areas listed on state or national historical registers.

The survey should be completed in approximately four months.

In other business, the council:

—Approved the rezoning of an office building, owned by Dr. Gerald Horn at 500 Plum St., from multiple family residential to professional offices.

—Approved the rezoning of three homes at 2205, 2225 and 2235 Wharf Road from the city's Mobilehome Exclusive to single family residential zoning.

—Approved the rezoning of the eastern portion of the Capitola Auto Center from Automatic Review to Community Commercial zoning, which reflects the auto center usage.

—Gave City Attorney Richard Manning the authority to prepare summaries of long ordinances to be published in local newspapers. Manning asked for the change last month, saying that it cost upwards of \$25 a page to have an ordinance published in newspapers to satisfy state laws.

—Approved a new contract with the Santa Cruz County SPCA for animal control and shelter services in the city.

—Struck a compromise with sponsors of a Begonia Festival volleyball tournament, allowing the construction of a stage and scoreboard and the usage of the existing volleyball courts for a Labor Day weekend volleyball tourney. But the council refused to allow extensive commercial advertising on the beach, the distribution of free samples of mineral water and wine coolers, and the creation of a fifth volleyball court on the crowded beach.