## Court rejects Cedar-Vine suit, SC city council moves quickly, calls for bids

Santa Cruz councilmen wasted no time moving ahead on the Cedar-Vine street opening project after a property owner's suit against the project was thrown out of court. At last week's meeting councilmen called for bids on the street improvement project, expected to cost around \$600,000, including acquisition costs.

The project calls for a connecting link between Cedar and Vine streets, providing a parallel street to Pacific ave. Proponents of the plan maintain that it will provide for a better flow of downtown traffic and will eventually encourage more downtown commercial development, which will be beneficial to the city's treasury (through taxes).

Although some 200 downtown property owners objected to the city's proposal for financing the project - via an assessment district, only 45 property owners joined in the lawsuit against the project. The majority of those in opposition to the project feel the spread of proposed assessments to be out of line with "actual benefits to be derived." The total original assessment against the 45 property owner plaintiffs, represented by Santa Cruz attorney J. Frank Murphy jr., came to around \$80,900. The council is committed to a hearing of the partial reassessments on April 11.

Palo Alto attorney Kenneth Jose, acting as an official of the bonding firm which represents the city in the Cedar-Vine dispute, told the council the city now has adequate funds for land acquisition and demolition work, with about \$33,000 left over for incidental expenses.

More than 80 percent of the project will go for acquisition costs, as much as \$500, 000. Properties involved include the old Santa Cruz Sentinel building, the old Salinas

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