

# Council approves plan for Scotts Valley auto plaza

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SCOTTS VALLEY — A conceptual design for a proposed north Scotts Valley auto sales plaza was approved by the City Council Wednesday following a presentation by architect Michael D'Amico.

D'Amico and his design team will now prepare detailed maps and drawings of the proposed site.

The proposed 32-acre auto plaza, located near the abandoned Santa's Village amusement park, was originally conceived as a U-shaped cluster of display rooms fronting on a semicircular mall facing Highway 17.

But a group of car dealers who recently abandoned plans to build an auto mall at the Skyview Drive In theater in Santa Cruz asked D'Amico to draw a one-way loop road into the Scotts Valley plan.

"The dealers had a design for the Skyview ... a loop road that would force traffic to circle through the site and see everybody's facility," D'Amico told the council. "The idea has some merit, it gives everybody an equal shot."

The loop road could be paved with cobblestones to make it more attractive and to slow down traffic, allowing drivers a better look at the

displays, he said.

The conceptual plan includes space for five of the six car dealers that originally bought into the plan. One dealer, who D'Amico would not name, has not provided documents required by the city, he said. But if the unnamed dealer comes up with the needed documents, his dealerships will be added back into the plan, he said.

The remaining five dealers, all currently doing business in the city of Santa Cruz, sell 11 makes of cars, and made a total of \$90 million in retail sales in 1988, according to the

State Board of Equalization, D'Amico said.

City Council members were delighted with D'Amico's design.

"This feels very outstanding to me," said councilman Phil Liberty.

Councilman Joe Miller said the plan was "beautiful." But Mayor Glennon Culwell went even further, saying the designers had only left one thing out of an otherwise perfect plan.

"You didn't design a house for the mayor in there," he said. "It's so nice ... I'd like to live on the inside" of the auto compound.