

# S.C. Council approves Marriott in Beach Flats

150-room hotel to replace  
Peter Pan, Super 8 and Big 6

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✓ **SANTA CRUZ** — City visitors may soon have a new place to sleep after Santa Cruz leaders approved plans for a Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Beach Flats on Tuesday.

The 150-room hotel is slated to rise on Riverside Avenue, along the main route that tourists take to the sea and Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

City Councilwoman Lynn Robinson complimented the Spanish colonial architecture and style of the hotel, and how well it fits in with the rest of Santa Cruz. All council members agreed the new Marriott should give a facelift to one of the city's most visible thoroughfares.

"You've captured not only the Spanish colonial, but pieces of the Boardwalk itself," Robinson said, noting a reddish dome that will be perched on a tower on the hotel's main corner.

The new hotel will replace the Peter Pan, Super 8 and Big 6 motels on Riverside Avenue between Third Street and Leibbrandt Avenue. Those three hotels, which are owned by the Patel family of San Jose, will be torn down

## Marriott

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to make way for a new four-story, 59,000-square-foot Marriott Courtyard Hotel. Construction could begin in the fall, and the project is estimated to cost about \$25 million.

Along with 150 rooms, the hotel would include a 3,000-square-foot restaurant and bar and meeting rooms for up to 242 people. The building would stand 41 feet tall at its highest point, with four floors. Almost 200 parking spaces would rest underground. Rooms would go for about \$150 to \$200 per night, according to members of the Patel family, who operate under the company Lotus Management Inc.

Supporters also hope the new hotel will help clean up an area is plagued by gang activity. A man was shot to death two summers ago at Riverside and Third Street, and over the past three



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

A larger-than-life sea anemone and a jellyfish pair frames Santa Cruz City Councilwoman Emily Reilly during a presentation on Tuesday by Save Our Shores Marine Debris Program coordinator Alea Lawrence-Pine promoting the 24th annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 20.

years officers have responded to fights, reports of drug dealing and car thefts along that stretch of Riverside Avenue.

The hotel is one of a few new

lodgings proposed or being built in the city. A 100-room Holiday Inn Express hotel is under construction on Ocean Street, and San Jose-based Barry Swenson

Builder is seeking City Council approval for a 120-room hotel on the site of La Bahia, across the street from the Boardwalk. That project, which has drawn opposition, could go before the City Council next month.

Only a handful of people spoke against the Marriott project Tuesday night, asking for more union representation and for the hotel owners to recruit employees from surrounding neighborhoods, among other issues. Councilman Mike Rotkin noted that the project was unopposed at the Planning Commission and they should have voiced their concerns long before Tuesday's meeting.

In other action, members of Save our Shores attended the meeting dressed as sea creatures like jelly fish and sea anemones to promote a countywide annual coastal cleanup day from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 20. For information, visit [saveourshores.org](http://saveourshores.org).

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