

10/22/89 EQ 89-SC Co.

Village shops near collapse

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APTOS — Authorities shut down Soquel Drive through Aptos Village Saturday evening fearing that a row of stores might collapse into the creek below.

A sheriff's deputy said the decision to close the block-long stretch of Soquel Drive was made by a coalition of local agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, Cali-

fornia Highway Patrol, county Public Works and fire departments.

Officials were not certain when or if the stores would collapse, but were closing the roadway "as a precaution," CHP Officer Rhonda Robison said.

Robison said they fear the commercial row will "fall back into the ravine, and the road will go with it."

The threatened commercial row
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Shops/ Block-long stretch closed to traffic

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includes the Exxon gas station and Village Garage, Aptos Village Market and Aptos Dry Goods Store.

Officers lit flares and blocked Soquel Drive with their cars and orange cones at 6 p.m. Saturday, keeping traffic off Soquel Drive from Aptos Creek Road to Trout Gulch Road. Traffic was diverted through the Aptos Station parking lot, just yards away.

Area residents watching the road closure from across the street discussed the growing cracks and increasing tilt of the stores.

Several residents noted that the stores had sunk and leaned back

about a foot since Saturday morning. Deep cracks were growing along the edge of the road in front of the stores, and new cracks formed down the middle of Soquel Drive.

Some of the new cracks in the middle of the road follow the path of recent repairs on Soquel Drive.

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