

# SV auto center plans advance

SCOTTS VALLEY — The City Council hired a Scotts Valley engineering firm Wednesday to begin work on an auto center project planned for the site of the defunct Santa's Village amusement park.

The firm, Civil Consultants Group, will be paid \$141,000 to prepare topographic maps of the project area, prepare grading, drainage, lighting, utility installation and traffic engineering plans, cost estimates and other related duties.

The recommendation to hire the firm was added to the council's Wednesday agenda as an emergency item, as the council's auto center subcommittee didn't interview the three firms that applied for the job in time to place the item on the regular agenda. The council voted 4-0 to discuss the item, saying it was important not to delay work on the auto center. Mayor Glennon Culwell was not present at Wednesday's meeting.

But while the council moved forward with engineering for the auto center, they voted to delay buying part of the land slated for the project. The council, acting as a public financing corporation, will hold a

special meeting Aug. 23 to finalize the purchase of the 15.7 acre Scotts Valley R.V. Park, formerly the Holiday Host.

The city has issued \$7 million in bonds to cover the purchase of the park, which is one of three properties needed to build the proposed 32-acre auto mall. The council was poised to finalize the purchase Wednesday, but was stopped by two problems.

First, the city must advertise the public discussion of the item under

the auspices of a public financing corporation, which it failed to do, according to City Administrator August Caires. Second, the last snags had not been ironed out of the purchase agreement by Wednesday, Caires said.

The city is hoping to relieve City Hall crowding by moving its Finance Department into office space at the RV park within three months, but discussion of that move was postponed by the council until September.