

Capitola Mall expansion work begins in earnest

A cavalcade of trucks has taken over Capitola's 41st Avenue.

Trucks, trucks and more trucks can be seen interspersed with car traffic as they haul 200 loads of dirt a day from the site of the Capitola Mall expansion.

The dirt, on its way to the landfill at the Ben Lomond dump, is being dislodged to make way for J.C. Penney and Leask's stores.

Later excavation will clear a path for Clares Street Loop Road, planned to run behind the mall from Clares Street to Capitola Road.

Jay Benson, a laborer with Granite Construction Company, was busy yesterday counting the departing trucks and spraying their gritty loads with water to keep down the dust.

By the time the grading is completed, he said, 80,000

square yards of dirt will have been removed from the site.

The trucking is expected to continue for as long as three months, said Capitola Public Works Director Larry Perlin.

Meanwhile, Perlin is encouraging motorists to use the main mall entrance off 41st Avenue. The Clares Street entrance to the mall is closed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily to enable trucks to move quickly on and off the site.

Customers and residents of the area opposite the mall on Clares Street are still allowed through, however, and barricades blocking the mall entrance are removed evenings and weekends.

Actual construction of the mall expansion is expected to start this fall and continue for a year.