

VCH COSTCO R/P OCT 15 1993 pg 2

Santa Cruz planners reject Costco proposal

Citing concerns with traffic and a wetlands area, Santa Cruz city planning officials voted last night to deny a proposal to construct a Costco discount store.

Testimony during the four-hour meeting focused on alleged faults in the project's environmental impact report and concern from local businesses that they would suffer unfair competition if the volume retailer was allowed to locate in Santa Cruz.

The city's planning commission and zoning board held a special joint meeting to consider the project. Planning Commission members voted 4-1 to deny certification of the EIR, against a rezoning and general plan amendment which would have changed the

site's land use designation from industrial to community commercial.

Despite the defeat, a company spokesman said Costco intended to appeal the decision directly to the City Council. If the appeal is filed by Oct. 25, it is possible the council could consider the matter in early November, according to Ken Thomas, a principal planner for Santa Cruz.

The popular retail chain has applied to build a 122,500-square-foot store in the Harvey West Industrial Park. Costco, a store open to members only, would have served the existing 46,000 cardholders in Santa Cruz County, and was expected to create about 200 new jobs.