

# Utility undergrounding gets go-ahead

Ignoring a petition signed by 50 village business owners and residents, the Capitola City Council ordered PG&E to go ahead with a utility undergrounding project in Capitola Village.

Trenching will begin along Capitola Avenue in the Village shortly after the conclusion of the Begonia Festival Sept. 9, PG&E representative Reggie Starrs said, and will be finished by Nov. 16.

Crews will be back in the Village on Jan. 7 to begin pulling cable, installing transformers and street lights and

connecting homes and businesses to the underground system.

Capitola Theatre owner Audrey Jacobs represented a 50 signature petition to the council Thursday night, asking for a delay on the work until the Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park is purchased by the city and a portion made available for Village parking.

The council voted 2-1 (with Mayor Michael Routh and Councilman Dennis Beltram absent) to go ahead with the project this fall.

Councilmen Bob Bucher and

Jerry Clarke decided to go ahead with the project. Councilwoman Stephanie Harlan sided with the petition signers, saying she felt the impact on the businesses at this time would be too much for many of the smaller shopkeepers to absorb.

Clarke and Bucher decided to go ahead with the project after Starrs told them that any delay now would mean the work would not be done in 1985 and would not start until 1986.

The \$210,000 PG&E project, financed by the utility with funds set aside for under-

grounding under a state Public Utilities Commission order, will bury wires along Capitola Avenue from Monterey to Stockton Avenues, portions of California and Stockton Avenues, Monterey Avenue and El Camino Medio.

Pacific Bell and Sonic Cable TV will also bury their lines at the same time.

Property owners will have to pay the cost of changing their electrical services from overhead to underground — at an estimated cost of \$400-\$2,000, depending on the complexity of the conversion.