



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Michael Bowers sorts mail in the Boulder Creek Post Office.

Boulder Creek post office cramped, needs new home

By MARIA GAURA
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BOULDER CREEK — After 31 years, the Boulder Creek Post Office has outgrown its cramped quarters.

The lease on the post office's Pine Street building expires in March 1992, and U.S. Postal Service officials have budgeted money to buy land and build a new office over the next two fiscal years.

"This is a very, very preliminary type deal," said postal service spokesman Basil Stevens from the service's San Jose office. "We know we need some room down there ... but what that means is not clear yet. We're keeping all of our options open."

The Boulder Creek office now has 12 employees, a variety of de-

livery vehicles, 971 post office boxes and only four parking spaces. All of the post office boxes are full, and "there's always a waiting list," according to Maggie Givlin, the officer in charge. Givlin is serving as office administrator while the service searches for a new Boulder Creek postmaster.

Postal service planners are seeking a 45,000-square-foot site with room for a 9,500-square-foot building on it. The office now measures about 7,500 square feet. Customers and most of the employees must park on nearby streets.

Postal service planners are preparing a report on the project, and have asked county Supervisor Fred Keeley for his suggestions. Keeley has asked them to attend the Boulder Creek Town Plan hearings scheduled to begin in No-

vember. The town plan process, already concluded in nearby Felton and Ben Lomond, allows area residents to help design the future look of their towns by influencing the area's general plan.

The site of a post office is critical to downtown, Keeley said.

"A post office is a relatively large generator of traffic, both pedestrian and auto," Keeley said. "It's important to plan with the community precisely where such a large facility will go."

Keeley said postal officials have not yet responded to his request that they join the town plan process. The postal service does "want feedback" from the community, according to spokesman Bill Paul, and postal officials plan to meet with local officials soon to iron out details.