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Capitola city manager leaves for Southland post

Capitola City Manager Steve Burrell has been offered the same post at the Southern California city of Hermosa Beach and will announce his resignation at tonight's Capitola City Council meeting.

He said this morning that he plans to start work in Hermosa Beach on Jan. 3, 1994.

Burrell grew up in neighboring Redondo Beach and Torrance, and he said this morning that he regards the move as "going home."

He was the assistant city manager in San Clemente and had worked in Rolling Hills Estates before coming to Capitola.

He will work through November in Capitola and then take a month or so off before going south.

Burrell was hired as the Capitola City Manager in 1979 at the end of a period of civic turmoil that saw the ouster of the city's police chief and the medical retirement of the former city manager.

In Capitola, he oversaw the city's development of the 41st Avenue commercial area into the strongest in Santa Cruz county; the formation of the city's Redevelopment Agency; the development of the Capitola Auto Plaza; and numerous civic and public works projects in the city.

Burrell has been embroiled in controversy recently with the elected city treasurer, Glen Hanna, who has been critical of the operation of the city Redevelopment Agency and its financing.

He said the move was partly prompted by his family circumstances. His daughter, Erin, is a college freshman in New Mexico and his son, Shaun, is in the eighth grade at New Brighton Middle School.

He indicated that he wanted to make a change before his son enters high school so that he can complete all four years in the same school.