

# Capitola council angry over Wingspread claims

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City officials in Capitola are angry about Wingspread advertisements that take credit for new traffic lights to be installed at Park Avenue and Highway 1.

In fact, installation of two sets of traffic lights — at both entrances and exits of the highway — is already slated. The lights will be installed regardless of whether Measure A, which gives voter approval to the Wingspread project, passes on Tuesday's ballot.

"This process started a long time ago," said Capitola City

Manager Steve Burrell. "Those traffic lights have been needed for quite a while."

What Capitola officials object to is the impression in Wingspread advertising that the lights would not be going in without Wingspread and that the cost of the installation will be covered by Wingspread developers.

One recent advertisement reads, "New traffic lights — paid for by Wingspread — will go in at Park Avenue and Highway 1 so you won't have to shudder to get through the intersection."

But Burrell said the cost of those Park Avenue and High-

way 1 traffic signals will be divided three ways — with the city of Capitola and Santa Cruz County each paying \$54,900 and Caltrans paying \$260,200.

David Lee, of the County Planning Department, said the county's conditions of approval for the Wingspread project say Wingspread developers will reimburse the county for its share of the cost of the lights.

The majority of the costs — covered by Caltrans and Capitola — would not be reimbursed.

Tim Welch of the "Yes on A" campaign committee noted that Wingspread has agreed to pay a

total of \$700,000 for traffic mitigations for the project. The mitigations include traffic signals at two additional intersections, a couple of sets of stop signs and a left-turn pocket along Park Avenue near McGregor Drive.

Welch said he at first did not know of the break-down of costs among the Wingspread traffic projects. Upon hearing of the reimbursal of only the county's cost for the Park Avenue traffic signals, he said, "If those are the facts, then we're wrong."

He added, "We're certainly not trying to claim credit for something we're not doing."