

# Stripes painted along Clubhouse

By NANCY BARR  
STAFF WRITER

Despite all the protest from a group of Rio del Mar residents, a Santa Cruz County Public Works crew painted "safety stripes" along Clubhouse Drive last week.

Stripes were painted May 6 along the shoulders for the full length of Clubhouse Drive. The county and the former commander of the local office of the California Highway Patrol had wanted the stripes — which clearly delineate the traffic lanes and the space designated for bicyclists and pedestrians — as a safety measure.

Supervisor Robley Levy, who represents the Rio del Mar area, said she conducted a survey several months ago — prior to her re-election last November — and found a majority of the residents were in favor of the striping.

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association had reported it took its own survey and found residents overwhelmingly opposed to the stripes. The association complained that the stripes would make it nearly impossible for Clubhouse Drive residents to park in front of their houses. Cars not parked to the right of the white line can be ticketed.

During the Board of Supervisors' "oral communications" session last week, improvement association president Mel Deerwester

said his board of directors was appalled that the stripes had been painted. He asked how "this thing somehow got under the door and got done without anybody's consent."

Vince Casey, also of Rio del Mar, told the supervisors he felt "betrayed."

Another resident, Bob Curtiss, complained the stripes are "unattractive and inappropriate," don't address the problem of speeders on Clubhouse Drive, and make parking inconvenient for residents and their guests. He, too, said the stripes had been painted without board approval.

But Levy said the stripes had been approved by the board about 2½ years ago and had just never been painted. They were painted last week, she said, because the Public Works Department was in the neighborhood doing other work, including repainting the center line and installing additional stop signs at the Rio del Mar Boulevard and Clubhouse Drive intersection.

Levy agreed that speeding is a major traffic concern in Rio del Mar, and said the board is trying to deal with that problem by getting radar guns for the CHP. On the complaint about parking, Levy said the stripes won't change anything because Clubhouse Drive residents have always parked their cars with the two right tires up on the curb to get the cars out of the way of passing traffic.