

# Council moves ahead on auto plaza plans

By MARIA GAURA

Sentinel staff writer

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**SANTA CRUZ** — The Santa Cruz City Council made further progress on plans to build a River Street automobile plaza Tuesday night, agreeing to loan the city Redevelopment Agency \$3,000 to prepare a feasibility study for the project.

The loan will be repaid from the San Lorenzo River Safety and Beautification Project.

The council also agreed to begin soliciting proposals from developers interested in planning and building an automobile plaza on a 13-acre site at River Street and Highway 1.

A River Street business owner protested the auto-center plan at the council meeting, and pres-

ented the council with a stack of 1,350 petitions signed by people opposed to the project.

The petitions stated that the project would not benefit the city economically, would displace needed businesses and residences, misuse taxpayer money, degrade the quality of downtown and violate the intent of a recently approved plan to beautify the San Lorenzo River.

The city began work on developing a new site for automobile dealers after three dealerships moved to Capitola recently, costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenues. The city is hoping a new automobile plaza will keep the remaining dealers in Santa Cruz.