

Demolition Begins... Again

PACIFIC AVE
by Donna R. Maurillo

The sound of earth movers has returned to Pacific Avenue north of Cathcart Street as we move into the Streetscape Phase of downtown reconstruction. Business owners have been remarkably good natured about the latest

work, perhaps because they know the work will be over soon. To their credit, many local residents have picked up the spirit of reconstruction by maintaining their downtown shopping habits throughout the project. This is how the work stands at press time:

■ **Street pavement and sidewalks have been demolished** on Pacific Avenue between Cathcart and Church Streets in preparation for new surfaces, which will be in place by early September. In order to maintain continuous

pedestrian access to all businesses in the work zone, the contractor has installed a wooden walkway with handrails. These handrails will allow the contractor to avoid using chain link fences. Several business people expressed a preference for an alternative to the imposing look of the fences, and that desire was accommodated.

■ **Underground water and sewer lines** are being extended from the main lines to the face of each building. This is the final step in underground utility replacement. Although this work will be done underneath the walkways, they still will be safe for pedestrian use.

■ **A number of people have asked why the street is being demolished again, and why only temporary pavement was put into place a few months ago. Why wasn't permanent asphalt used?** The reason the work was done this way is because, when the City was

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ready to replace underground utilities last August, the design for the Streetscape Phase had not yet been completed. Decisions were not final about the placement of trees, the type of sidewalks, the style of street lights, etc. Rather than delay reconstruction, the City decided to move ahead with the underground utilities replacement and to install temporary street paving in the interim. If the City had delayed the utilities replacement until after the Streetscape design was final, reconstruction would have lasted at least until the summer of 1993.

■ **Irrigation lines and street light electrical work** in front of the Post Office and the Veterans' Building will be in progress by Memorial Day. This work will be confined to the area already fenced, so there will be no addi-

tional re-routing for vehicles or pedestrians. In consideration for Fourth of July events, the contractor is expecting to reopen the area by the first of July, barring unforeseen circumstances. New sidewalks and street pavement are expected to be in place at that time, although trees will be installed after September 15, during their dormant stage.

■ **Post Office boxes which were located in front of the Veterans' Building** have been moved to two locations during street work. They can be found curbside at the south end of the Pacific Western Bank parking lot, and behind the Town Clock near Bank of the West. S

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