

Aptos Village Plan Approved

Aptos - 2000

SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors unanimously approved the latest Aptos Village Plan ending nine years of a process that many thought would never end.

The new Aptos Village Plan covers an area of 15 acres, six acres of which are vacant, that once were home to logging mills and apple-packing sheds. The plan gives guidance to private developers for building an area containing retail shops and apartments, a bicycle or skate park, a grassy commons and two new streets to improve access. The new Aptos Village will be located along Soquel Drive between Aptos Creek and Trout Gulch roads.

The anchor for the plan calls for the historic Apple Barn, a former fruit-packing house to be relocated and rebuilt. Height limits will ensure that the historic four-story Bayview Hotel will be the tallest building in Aptos Village.

After a building start estimated to take place in 2011, the rest of the new village will be constructed over the next 5-10 years. Barry Swenson Builder owns most of the property to be developed.

The approved Aptos Village plan:

Covers a much smaller area than the precious one and allows 63 modest new

residences accommodating about 200 people on the edges of the village with some mixed use in the village core. There are to be three housing areas: six townhouses on the northern slope, up to 11 townhouses on the south side of Granite Way, and apartments above businesses in the core area.

The new plan allows a variety of styles and siding so that buildings appear to have been built over time to avoid the "theme park" look that has been frozen in time but it does require a consistency of existing designs, such as porches and overhangs. It calls for the 12,000 square foot Apple Barn to be moved and become the anchor retail as a grocery store and allows a "sub-anchor" store of up to 7,500 square feet.

The rules define new development in Aptos Village, but each building project must be approved individually.

The new village plan is a scaled down version of a plan first approved in 1979 and updated in 1985. Supervisor Ellen Pirie began working on the plan soon after first taking office in 2001. For the next nine years, she continued the process with many community meetings.

Her four fellow supervisors commended Pirie for her leadership. ■

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