

# Crews work overtime to finish Capitola wharf

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CAPITOLA — Crews here are in a race against time and tides as they rush to complete the repair and expansion of Capitola Wharf before upcoming storms cause new damage.

Crews are working 20-hour days — from 6 to 2 a.m. Large quartz spotlights are being used for the night work.

Contractors Power-Anderson of Mountain View are not expected to complete the \$165,000 project before the Dec. 2 deadline. Work, however, has "significantly increased" this week, according to Capitola Public Works Director Craig French, with the advent of the double shift.

"They're driving the piles during the day and then the night crew comes in to replace the decking," he said. "By

morning, crews can drive out and drive more piles."

French expects the crews to be "nearly finished" by Dec. 2. "The structure itself will probably be reinforced, but the finishing work like handrails probably won't be done," he said.

Power-Anderson will be liable for any storm damage sustained to the wharf after the Dec. 2 deadline if work is not completed. The contract sets up provisions for actual damages sustained.

The contractors got off to a late start due to a mix-up when the timber pilings were not treated with special protective solutions on time. Capitola councilmen have expressed concern all along about the lateness of the project.

Some 28 pilings are being driven for added reinforce-

ment, although the major portion of the project involves expansion at the end of the wharf. A point, similar to the bow of a boat, is being built at the end. It is designed to break up the crest of waves during storms and is believed to be the first design of its kind.

The wharf will be expanded approximately 20 feet, adding 800 square feet of decking to take in the point. Special steel pilings will be driven at the end.

The city is responsible for less than 25 percent of the \$165,000 costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state Wildlife Conservation Board is paying the bulk of the costs.

The century-old wharf was last damaged by high surf and waves last winter. It was temporarily shored up and reopened to the public this spring.