

✓CP AROMAS

Pressure finally pays off

Aromas gets its stop signs

By LARAMIE TREVINO
STAFF WRITER

It took a collective application of pressure, but Aromas residents finally got those extra stop signs installed downtown yesterday.

A handful of locals and one goat turned out for the low-key morning ceremony in which county public works staff posted the signs on the southbound and northbound ends of Carpenteria Road at Blohm Avenue. They join an existing sign on Blohm Avenue where it meets Carpenteria, the town's main thoroughfare.

The spectators were already gone when former North Monterey County Supervisor Marc Del Piero, now with the state Water Resources Control Board, drove up to bear witness to the fruition of his labor.

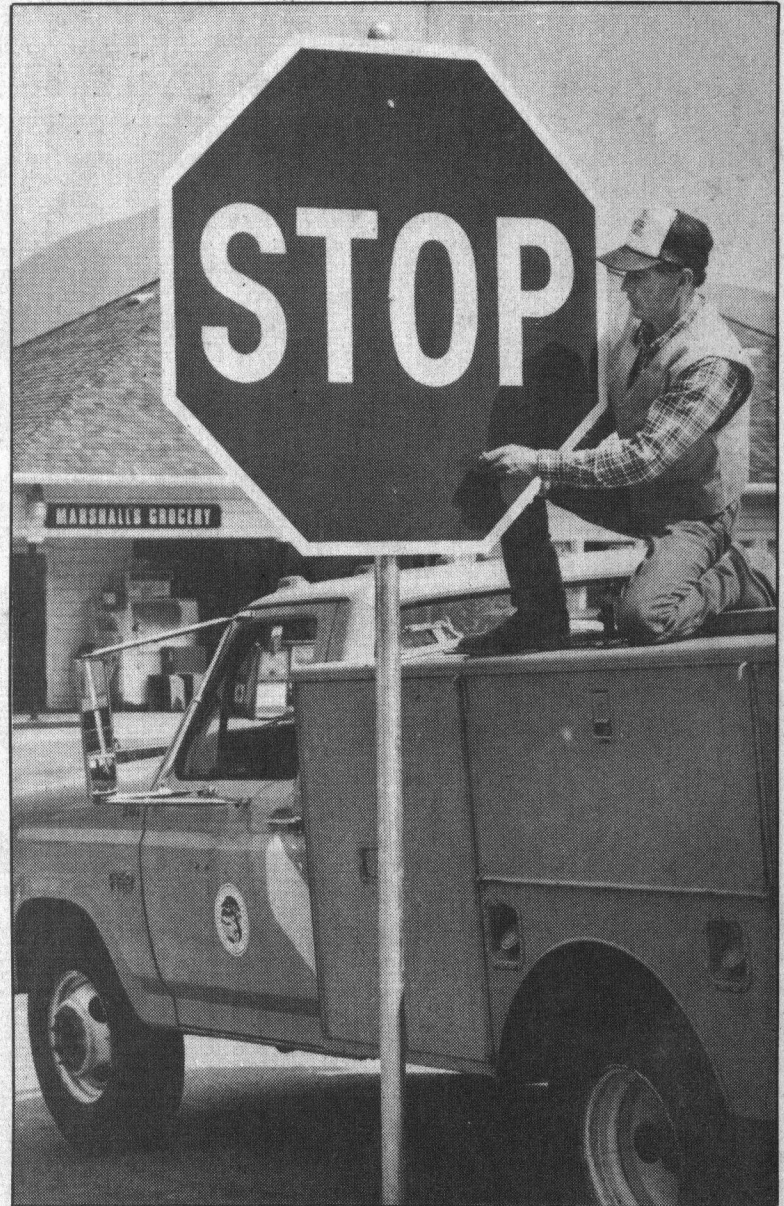
"It took 11 years and three petitions" for the Monterey County Supervisors to finally grant approval for the community's sign requests, Del Piero said. In January, Del Piero, a Watsonville native, was appointed to his new post by Gov. Pete Wilson after serving North County for 11 years.

A resident-backed campaign for the sign was launched in earnest last year by members of the Aromas Service Club, who fretted over the high speed of cars passing through, which combined with blocked views contributed by vehicles parked on the approaches to the intersection, made for unsafe conditions for pedestrians.

Victory was within reach when the board last December granted preliminary approval for signs against the recommendations of the California Highway Patrol and county public works staff, whose traffic studies of the area determined extra signs were unwarranted.

When the item came before supervisors for final adoption last month, residents weren't about to give the board room to reverse its decision, so they showed up in full force to rally behind their request. The action passed.

**Monterey County
workman Jack
Nunes bolts stop
sign to post on
Carpenteria Road
in Aromas.**



Kurt Ellison