

# ✓ Council approves mall bus-parking solution

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CAPITOLA — Even as work gets under way this week on the \$35-million Capitola Mall expansion project, final approvals are still being negotiated by the city.

The City Council Thursday night approved what is believed to be the final detail — the location of a disputed bus-overflow parking area. The approved area, located just north of the main mall entrance off 41st Avenue, now must gain approval from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit Board. That board meets Aug. 21.

Transit District Executive Direc-

tor Scott Galloway said later that he expects the alternate location will be accepted by transit directors.

"All we need is someplace reasonable where we can hold over a bus until a spot opens up (in the primary transfer center)," said Galloway. "This appears to meet our desires."

The overflow parking area will hold up to three buses if the primary bus transfer center is filled. That primary center will accommodate up to seven buses near Sears, where the buses now congregate.

Council members objected to the original proposal worked out be-

tween the transit district and mall developer Cypress Properties. That would have placed the bus-overflow parking area in the same area between Sears and the mall entrance, allowing up to 10 buses to line up in front of the mall.

The compromise location, if approved by transit directors, also would put to rest a threatened lawsuit by the district. Without a bus-overflow parking area, mitigations called for in the environmental impact report regarding increased transit needs from mall expansion would not have been met, according

to transit officials.

Meanwhile, work began Monday on grading of the mall expansion site, behind the existing mall. About 80,000 cubic yards of dirt — some 14,500 truck loads — will have to be hauled off the site, said Capitola Public Works Director Larry Perlin.

Grading is expected to take three months. The total project is not expected to be completed until November, 1988.

The county's only covered shopping mall will nearly double in size. A J.C. Penney and Leask's will be added as anchor tenants.