

Big motel complex wins planners' OK

Watsonville city planners have approved a proposed 83-unit motel project near Highway 1 on Green Valley Road that would include a large restaurant and parking lot.

The project will be up for approval by the Planning Commission at its Dec. 2 meeting.

Developers propose to build the Watsonville Inn on a 3.2-acre site on Silver Leaf Drive.

The motel is part of the Apple Hill Project, which includes the proposed construction of nearly 150 townhomes, two restaurants in addition to the motel and its restaurant, and 18,000 square feet of shops.

An environmental impact report, which said the Apple Hill Project would not significantly impact the area, was done on the project in 1979.

Since then, roads for the project have been built and building permits for 152 townhomes have been issued. But

just five of the units are currently under construction, according to a planners' report.

City planners noted in their report to planning commissioners that traffic resulting from the development has been planned for and will not significantly impact the area.

Planners recommended the commission approve the project, which is located down the street from several other large projects — such as the proposed Orchard Supply Hardware store and an as-yet-unfinished Westside Industrial Park — in the Green Valley Road area near Highway 1.

Dennis Hazelton, a Los Altos Hills builder and motel operator, is the Watsonville Inn developer. If the project is approved by the Planning Commission, construction would begin in April of next year and should be completed by the fall, project planners said.