

Council spikes rumors over Esplanade

Rumors circulating in Capitola Village in reference to the Esplanade restoration project were refuted last night by Capitola City Manager Steve Burrell.

"The rumor mill has generated the myth," Councilman Michael Routh said, "that sidewalks will be double what they are now and that the Esplanade is being turned into a mall."

Councilman Ron Graves said he's received several phone calls from people worried about the sidewalks, as well as from people worried that the new sea wall is taking "a tremendous amount of time" to construct.

Burrell denied both those charges. Work on the sea wall is nearly completed, he said, and the restoration project should now proceed at a more rapid pace.

"The sidewalks are going to be roughly the same size as they were," he said.

Councilman Jerry Clarke asked Burrell to see that construction workers block off no more parking spaces at a time than necessary.

The new sea wall and sidewalks are part of a \$600,000 Esplanade restoration project that Capitola Public Works Director Larry Perlin said should be finished by March.



Workmen prepare forms for steps leading to beach from new sea wall on Capitola Esplanade.

Chip Scheuer

Construction workers are now fashioning steps in the sea wall openings and will start tearing up the street and sidewalks on Monday, he said.

Sidewalks will be replaced on both sides of the street from San Jose Avenue to Capitola Avenue. A cobblestone crosswalk will be laid in the new street pavement from Lawn Way to the ocean-side sidewalk. Storm drains will also be installed.

Perlin confirmed that three parking spaces would be lost because of the crosswalk. That loss provoked consternation on the part of people testifying at last

night's City Council meeting on Village parking problems.

Perlin said traffic will still be able to wend its way around the Esplanade during the sidewalk construction. Only one side of the street will be closed at a time, Perlin said.

An aesthetic lighting system was cut from the project early on as too costly, but Perlin said the city hasn't completely scuttled plans to install it.

The electrical substructure needed for the lights will be installed now to avoid tearing up the new street and sidewalks later.

— Jennifer Koss

REFERENCE

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
January 9, 1987