

Way cleared for Mall work

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The Santa Cruz County supervisors yesterday approved an agreement that will allow developers to begin expanding the Capitola Mall this summer.

The agreement is intended to guarantee that the developers, Cypress Properties Inc., will provide short- and long-term solutions to drainage problems that would be exacerbated by the mall expansion.

The supervisors, serving as directors of the county Flood

Control and Water Conservation District, have jurisdiction over the project drainage system.

Unresolved drainage problems could have delayed or stopped the project.

Instead, the agreement permits developers to dig temporary ponds on the mall property to catch storm runoff until a permanent drainage system can be built.

The agreement specifies that the permanent solution will be a storm drain that carries runoff under Capitola Road and

into Rodeo Gulch. If concerns over erosion, water quality or other problems, make the Rodeo Gulch solution impossible, the agreement requires the developers to pay fees to the flood control district for other drainage improvements downstream. The developers would also be required to permanently maintain the detention basins on the mall property.

In other action, the supervisors:

- Continued consideration of proposed amendments to zoning laws that would allow flower

and fruit stands on property zoned for office buildings.

- Approved a Capital Improvement Plan that establishes a schedule for providing urban services, such as sidewalks, parks, and drainage system.

The plan, which is severely underfunded, is primarily a "wish list" of projects. The supervisors will vote on funding priorities when they meet to review the county budget. That review began this morning with a study session.