

# ✓ Capitola Health Center up for review

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CAPITOLA — The controversial Capitola Health Center, proposed for land at Bay Avenue and Highway 1, will come before the Capitola Planning Commission again when it meets at 7 tonight at City Hall.

Commissioners also will consider an application by the owner of the 2121 Restaurant on 41st Avenue to change to a night club operation and an application to remodel Grady's Market.

The Health Center is going back through the planning process because developers have repositioned the building, farther from Highway 1. This was done in case Highway 1 is widened in the future.

Commissioners will consider approving a negative declaration, which states that any environmental impacts the Health Center will cause can be alleviated.

When the project, along with a negative declaration, was approved by the commission earlier this year, the county and Watsonville Community Hospital appealed the decision to the City Council.

The county and the hospital are concerned not so much about potential environmental impacts as they are about the impacts the Health Center would have on other health-care providers. They are particularly concerned that the profit-making facility would attract

the type of patients who make money for hospitals, leaving other health-care providers with the type of patients who are not as profitable, such as those on Medi-Cal.

Health Center developers, however, have pledged to accept patients who receive Medi-Cal insurance.

Dominican Hospital also has raised concerns, but did not appeal.

The Health Center — a 24-bed hospital, doctors offices and outpatient surgical facility — would be owned by a group of 40 local doctors who have invested in it. Developers are Doug Byrd and Chuck Madden.