

CAPITOLA
PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
1975-
1984

Capitola sets sights on annexing future parking lot

By KEITH MURAOKA
Sentinel Staff Writer

CAPITOLA — The city will be expanding toward Aptos — some 23 acres worth in the New Brighton State Beach area — in hopes of eventually developing a parking lot for its beach shuttle bus program. The annexation proposal councilmen set in motion Thursday night must still be approved by the Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission. That agency is in charge of drawing boundaries between public lands. The city has been working toward the annexation since November, when it ap-

proved the purchase of a 4.63-acre parcel at McGregor Drive and Park Avenue for \$465,000. The parcel is seen as a partial solution to the city's long-time parking problem in Capitola Village. The city has never had a permanent parking lot for its successful beach shuttle bus program, which operates during summer. The other 18 acres the city is proposing to annex is also public land currently located in the unincorporated area of the county, but adjacent to existing city limits. Some of it is part of New Brighton

State Beach, most of which is already within Capitola boundaries. The proposed annexation area is adjacent the Porter-Sesnon property, site of the proposed Wingspread project. Wingspread involves performing arts facilities and hundreds of residential units. Councilmen were quick to point out that they are planning no such project for the area. Councilman Dennis Beltram said the city's action actually was protecting a "sensitive" area from future development. Councilman Michael Routh added,

"My biggest fear is that we might be accused of trying to create another Wingspread right down the road. Certainly, that is not what we want to do." Besides the annexation request, the council is requesting an amendment to the current Coastal Commission Land Use Plan. Under the proposed change, a variety of public uses would be allowed. Parks and recreational support facilities, such as the parking lot for the visitor-serving beach shuttle bus program, could be possible. The only comment councilmen received

during the public hearing was positive. Jim Warnock, a resident of Pine Tree Lanes — which is located next to the proposed annexation area — said he has confidence in the city's plans to protect the area. While he had no objections regarding the proposed parking lot, Warnock said there would be opposition if the city ever moved its Corporation Yard there, which had been discussed previously. Planning Director Steve Russell clarified the city has no plans at present of moving the yard.