



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Weeds grew, wood weathered, but this half-finished condominium project is expected to be revived soon.

APARTMENT HOUSES

Developer breathes life back into project

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APTOS — The ghost town here soon will be no longer.

Construction on the half-completed, then-abandoned, condominium project near Park Avenue and Highway 1 is expected to start up again next week after a two-year hiatus.

The project, now called Woodside Terrace, has been viewed by thousands of motorists daily, off Cabrillo College Drive, adjacent to Imperial Courts tennis complex.

Work on the project stopped two years ago after the lending company for the original developer went bankrupt. That, in turn, put the developer out of business, and the project's ownership switched to the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance

Corp.

New owners are Lido Lane Properties of San Francisco. Gerald Walker, one of the company's partners, said county permits to start again on the project were expected "any day now." A trailer has been moved onto the site by a sub-contractor and some cleanup work has been completed.

The 28 half-completed units, which range in size from 850 to 1,500 square feet, should be finished next spring, said Walker. Another 30 units to the north of the existing building are planned for phase one and should be finished next summer. Lido Lane also plans another 64 units in phases two and three several years down the line.

Walker said enthusiasm is high about the project. He says he's already received a half-dozen inquiries from prospective buyers.

spective buyers.

"It's nice to come into a project where developers, neighbors and the county all want the same thing — to see the thing completed," he said.

Also glad that work is about to begin again are residents of nearby Willowbrook Village, adjacent business owners and Supervisor Robley Levy, in whose district the "white elephant" sits.

Nicki Pecchenino, aide to Levy, said the office has received "surprisingly few" complaints about the half-finished complex.

"It's so visual, I thought for sure people would complain," said Pecchenino. "But, I think they understood the situation."

Sharon Rowe, whose house faces directly toward the complex, described it as "a big, tired dog" that everyone is

going to be glad to see go away.

"What can I say?" she asked. "It was sad to have to look at it all this time. It just looks so half-finished. I know there's going to be a lot of people happy around here."

Neighbor Hope Hart agreed, saying, "I'm real happy they're finally completing it. I think we need the housing." Audrey Fieberling, a clerk at nearby Advantage Your's tennis shop, added, "I'm glad they're starting again. It's been sitting there forever. I don't like to see things sitting half done."

Of course, with the start of construction, residents are faced with seeing their open space fill up.

"There goes our beautiful sunset," said Rowe. Added another neighbor, "Now I won't have anywhere to run my dog."