

# Builders *Express*

## Get a Break

7/29/82

**B**uilders in Santa Cruz County received an unexpected break Tuesday when the environmentally oriented Board of Supervisors approved a series of proposals designed to take the sting out of the permit process of the growth management plan.

Under the growth management plan, would-be builders enter a lottery for the limited number of permits given out each year. Until Tuesday a permit holder only had six months from the time his or her number came up to the beginning of construction. Many builders, especially smaller ones, have had difficulty putting a financial package together in time to use their permits. The only choice left to the builder who could not meet the six month deadline was to go to the end of the line, which meant a two to three year wait.

On Tuesday Board chair Robley Levy gained support for a series of reforms to the permit process. As long as the interest rate remains above 14%, builders will be allowed to receive a six month extension on their deadline. If they still cannot meet the extended deadline, they will be allowed to change

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places with anyone in line behind them.

Levy was joined by her environmentally oriented colleagues Gary Patton and Joe Cuchiara in passing the reforms.

Supervisor Dan Forbus became a little hot and bothered because he had been unable to get support for similar amendments when he proposed them 18 months ago. But Forbus swallowed his grief at being outflanked in the battle to show who can get the job done for small builders and voted with the majority.

Supervisor E. Wayne Moore, the most adamant supporter of developers on the Board, voted against the proposal. Moore said he'll reserve judgement until they come back for final approval next week.