

Long Marine Lab gaining space

Construction of the Seymour Marine Discovery Center is going swimmingly



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Long Marine Lab
Julie Barrett Heffington, director of Seymour Marine Discovery Center, says the new wing of the Long Marine Lab will open in spring.

By **JOHN SANFORD**
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✓ **SANTA CRUZ** — Since the Joseph M. Long Marine Laboratory opened more than two decades ago, its visitor center and aquarium have been housed in a cramped building originally designed for storage.

This 2,000-square-foot structure resembles an oversized mobile home. A workshop and bookstore also share the space, and the lab is open to the public just 18 hours a week.

But tens of thousands of people visit it each year, thanks to its public-education program, Window to Discovery. And soon, the window for this popular marine-discovery program will be a lot bigger.

After roughly seven years of planning and fund-raising, the \$6.25 million Seymour Marine Discovery Center is scheduled to open to the public in the spring, said Steve Davenport, lab manager and assistant director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at UC Santa Cruz.

The new center is adjacent to the windswept

bluffs at Terrace Point on Santa Cruz's Westside, a 55-acre parcel that UCSC purchased in April with plans of developing world-class ocean and coastal research facilities.

No site-specific plans have been developed for the property, but university officials have said they hope to include some staff housing and research facilities.

Previous efforts by private developers to build homes on the property have ignited bat-

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