

# Big road projects springing up in Aptos

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APTOS — It's spring, and in Aptos that means road work.

Four major road projects in the area totaling more than \$1 million are under way or starting soon.

They are:

- Soquel Drive, at Rancho del Mar shopping center, \$700,000.
- Sidewalks for Treasure Island Drive, in the Rio del Mar area, \$50,000.
- Trout Gulch Road and Soquel Drive, to be resurfaced in the Aptos Village area in the next month.
- Sidewalks, on Center Street in Seacliff, to go to bid later this month, \$300,000.

The cluster of projects has been years in the works, and is the "biggest I've seen since I've been on the board in the Aptos area," said county Supervisor Robley Levy.

The Soquel Drive work, intended to solve a longtime traffic mess, includes widening the road to four lanes between State Park and Spreckles drives.

Sidewalks, bike lanes, curbs and gutters will be added to both sides of Soquel Drive. A traffic signal will be installed and the entrance to the Rancho del Mar shopping center redesigned, said John Fantham, director of the county Public Works Department.

A second signal will be installed at Spreckles and Soquel drives.

Two left-hand turn lanes will be installed on Soquel Drive for turns onto State Park Drive.

"One lane of left turn has not been sufficient to take care of traffic," said Fantham. "If you go out there at 4:30 in the afternoon, it's

real difficult to turn."

The work is also expected to un-snarl traffic of Cabrillo College. "In the morning, when Cabrillo goes into session, traffic backs up to the freeway," said Levy.

Utility work started about a month ago. Construction started last week and is expected to continue another two months. Granite Construction is the contractor.

Originally scheduled to be done last fall, work was delayed to avoid disruption of the holiday shopping season and because of rain, said Fantham.

Levy, who is seeking a fourth term on the board, said the delay of work until shortly before the June 2 primary was due to a snag in acquiring easements, not election-year politics.

"I'm not in the business of holding off projects," said Levy. "I want to get them done."

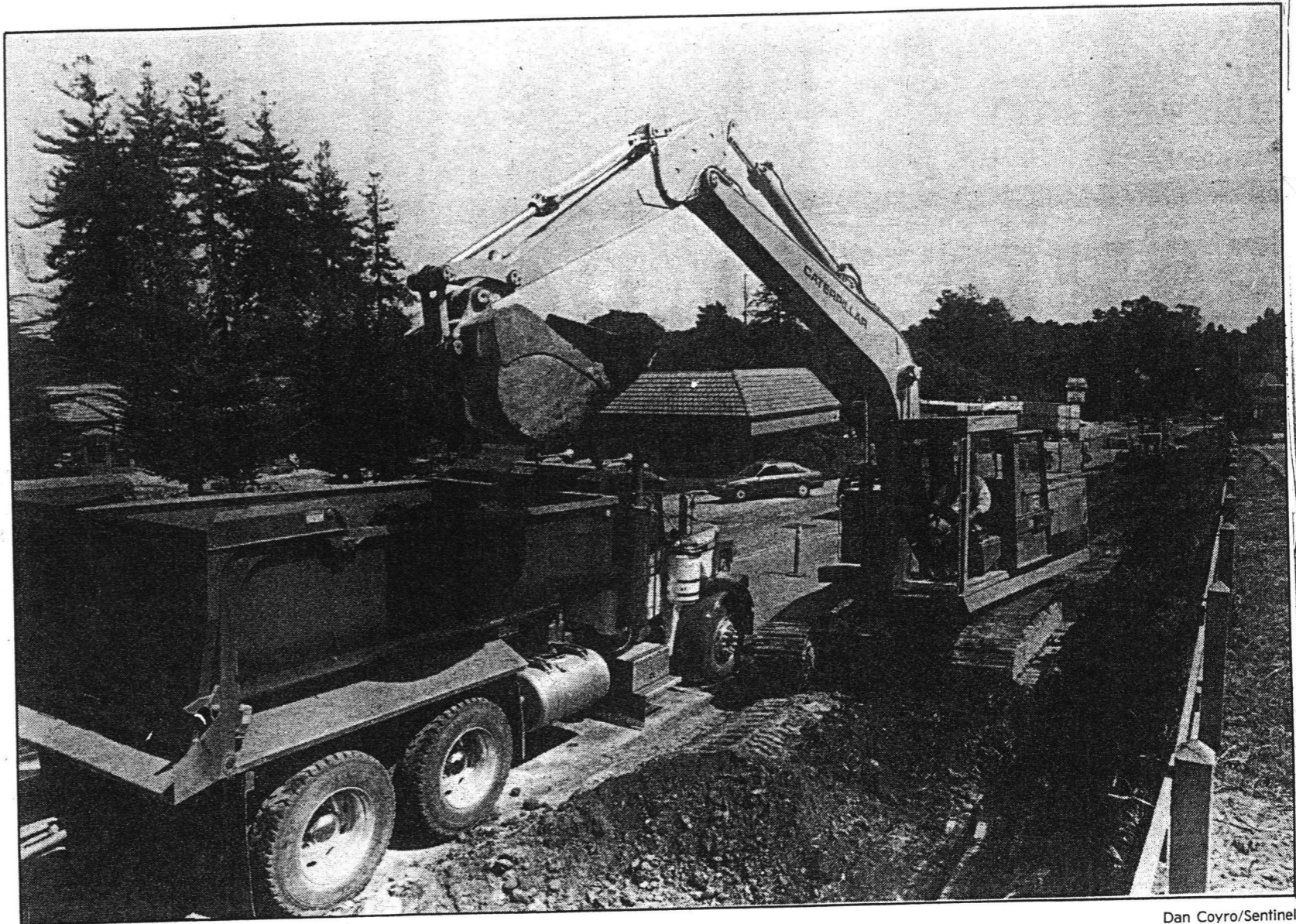
On Treasure Island Drive, the sidewalk installation between Aptos Beach Drive to Moosehead Drive is expected to take another four to five weeks.

Two earthquake-damaged roads in Aptos Village will be resurfaced in the next two to four weeks.

Trout Gulch Road and Soquel Drive between the railroad trestles will get new paving as part of \$1.2 million resurfacing of quake-damaged roads countywide, Fantham said.

On Center Avenue in Seacliff, the first phase of a three-stage project to improve drainage and install sidewalks will be completed this summer.

The first phase, between State Park Drive and Santa Clara Avenue, is scheduled to go to bid April 28. Construction is to take months, said Fantham.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Soquel Drive is being widened at the Rancho del Mar shopping center.

## REFERENCE