

# Motel project gets nod despite traffic worries

Despite deep concern by two commissioners over the potential traffic problem involved, the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission has approved a proposal to build a 140-unit motel-restaurant-conference room complex in Aptos.

The commission voted 3-2 Wednesday of last week to give the go-ahead to the so-called Seacliff Inn, which would be located on a 5-acre parcel off State Park Drive between the Crown Center office complex and the Cabrillo golf course.

Developer Jeff Baird said the plan is to construct a first-class, 140-unit motel, two 600-square-foot conference rooms, a restaurant, bar and gift shop.

The project itself was not a subject of contention, all agreeing that it would be a reasonable use of the property. But access to the property, which would come on Old Dominion Court off State Oark Drive, caused two of the commissioners to balk.

Commissioners Chuck Barr and Denise Holbert said they believed that would put too much

pressure on State park Drive, what with an entrance to and exit from the freeway and an entrance-exit to the huge Rancho del Mar shopping center all within a few hundred feet of each other.

But Commissioner Ree Burnap, in whose district the project lies, joined with the other two commissioners, Ivan "Skip" Eberly and Mitchell Page in approving the project. Mrs. Burnap had expressed doubts of her own at the first hearing on the project about the traffic problem. But assurances by the traffic engineers that the plan as proposed would not overburden State Park Drive won her vote.

The project must still win the approval of the Board of Supervisors. If it clears that hurdle, developer Baird said construction could begin this summer.