

# Council OKs more money for historical survey

CAPITOLA — The city is continuing forward in its attempt to get around building restrictions imposed by the federally mandated city flood-zone ordinance.

Council members Thursday night allocated another \$7,300 toward its citywide historical building survey. The survey adds several areas — including Capitola Wharf, Venetian Court and Lawn Way — to the city's sought-after historical districts.

A historical designation could exempt the areas from Federal Emergency Management Agency building restrictions imposed in the city flood-zone ordinance.

That ordinance, as it stands now, places severe building restrictions on much of Capitola Village, including buildings near the ocean and along Soquel Creek.

The city, however, has already gained assurances from FEMA Assistant Administrator Frank Thomas that specially designated historical districts could exempt those areas from the building restrictions.

The federal agency mandated the ordinance on flood-prone cities

throughout the nation in an attempt to prevent the federal government from having to pay repair costs from future storms. Capitola was forced to comply when FEMA said it would withhold assistance in case of a disaster.

According to consultants hired by the city, several individual applications for historical districts would be needed. Capitola Village, in its

entirety, does not qualify as a historical district.

The consultants — who already have been paid \$9,700 for their work so far — earmarked 245 buildings in the city, which they felt had historical significance.

For an area to be designated a National Historical District, at least 70 percent of the buildings must be identified as being historically sig-

nificant, according to Capitola Planning Director Steve Russell. Additionally, there can not be a break of more than 50 yards between one contributing historical building and another.

The new areas to be added include Capitola Wharf, the area around Lawn Way and the Six Sisters houses on the Esplanade, the Venetian Court condominiums, the Stockton Avenue Bridge and the railroad tressle.

The council voted 4-1, with Councilman Dennis Beltram dissenting, to allocate the additional monies.

Beltram has been an outspoken critic of FEMA all along, but has not voted for the historical studies, saying it is a "waste of money."

He was blasted by Mayor Michael Routh during discussion. Routh told Beltram, "You've griped the most about FEMA's dictatorial rules. Now you have a chance to get around those restrictions and you don't vote for it."

Beltram replied that he felt there were other ways to get around the federal agency's restrictions.