



A pizza aficionado chows down above Capitola Village's new sea wall.

Scott Lituchy/Sentinel

## Parking relief in sight for Capitola

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**CAPITOLA** — Some relief is on its way for for the rest of the parking-crazed public in Capitola Village.

The city's \$2-million-plus, 232-space parking lot behind City Hall — within walking distance of downtown — will be open by mid to late June. The beach shuttle bus program is also operating daily from the park-and-ride lot on McGregor Drive, off Park Avenue at Highway 1.

And finally, Capitola's \$300,000-plus Capitola Esplanade restoration has been completed after more than five months of noise, detours and disruption of parking and

traffic.

Construction is currently under way on the parking lot, which is on the upper level of Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park. The city purchased the former 83-space park in October 1985 for \$1.5 million. Since then, it has spent several hundred thousand more dollars buying coaches at fair-market value, and has relocated others to the lower level of the park.

Like on-street spaces downtown, the new lot will be metered. The fee will be the same 50 cents an hour, with meters enforced from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Improvements to the Esplanade, meanwhile, centered on beautification and ped-

estrian safety around Capitola's main beachside area, along the east end of the Esplanade between San Jose and Monterey avenues.

The sea wall between Zelda's Restaurant and Esplanade Park was removed and a new one built. The wall, which has a curved lip, matches the wall in front of the park. Stairways leading to the beach also were added, as well as exposed aggregate side-walks.

The restoration was the second phase of a \$600,000 project that was primarily funded by a grant from the state Coastal Conservancy. That first phase included the city's acquisition of Hooper's Beach, a once-privately owned beach west of Capitola Wharf, and construction of a stairway on Cliff Drive down to the beach.

Capitola received the grant because the work improves public access to the village and the beach.