

Deer Park's construction stops

Construction on the \$4 million Deer Park shopping center in Rio Del Mar has been inching its way through a

maze of governmental agencies the past few months, and now work has stopped altogether.

A stop-work order by the Central Coastal Commission last week has caused the lay-off of workers, according to a spokesman for the Carl N. Swenson Construction Company.

HALF DONE

Prior to the extension of the coastal zone by state legislation, Deer Park center was proceeding with its construction and was about half-way completed under locally-approved permits.

However, even those local permits were hard to come by as the county planning department and the Aptos fire department had met previously with Swenson representatives in order to get approval of the final building permits.

Ed Brown, executive director of the coastal commission, said the stop-work order was issued "pending commission review and a permit for the project" and that his office would "negotiate with them to complete whatever work was necessary to make the job site safe."

COMMISSION DEMANDS

Jim Simms, vice president in charge of construction, said his company was taking a cooperative approach to the commission's demands and had begun filing permit applications.

He called things "frustrating," as he noted that about \$500,000 in site work had already been completed, and that crews were working on five units, three of them in one structure.

The completed center will have nine buildings, in addition to, the existing Deer Park Tavern building and the preservation of an old wooden barn at the site.

