

Capitola Wharf improvements set

CAPITOLA — The City Council wants a new wharf entrance to go along with an upcoming replacement to the end of the wharf.

Councilmen Monday night directed staff to return with a plan for Wharf Road — at the entrance to Capitola Wharf. They want to reduce the width of the entrance, adding landscaped traffic islands and wider sidewalks, in order to discourage motorists. Vehicles aren't allowed on the wharf.

The long-discussed plan was rekindled as a result of a proposed two-unit condominium project in the area. The city's Planning Commission had already approved the project, but it was appealed by Councilman Michael Routh due to traffic concerns.

Mayor Ron Graves concurred, noting there are "50 to 150" U-turns at the wharf's entrance daily when motorists realize the road dead-ends into the wharf.

The council saw this as the "logical time" to change the road entrance to the wharf. Condominium applicant Ray Messini will be required to pay a small portion of the improvement costs, with the city picking up the most.

As far as the new wharf end is concerned, councilmen formally awarded the \$150,000-project to Power-Anderson Contractors of Mountain View.

The storm-repair project will change the wharf end into a boat-like configuration which will involve a point, similar to a bow.

The pointed end will break up the crest of waves so the wharf won't take the full brunt of harsh winter storms. It is believed to be the first such design for a wharf.

Construction will begin on Sept. 12, according to city Public Works Director Craig French, and be completed by mid-October.

The wharf will be expanded approximately 20 feet, adding 800 square feet of deck to take in the new point. Steel pilings — as opposed to the normal treated timber type — will also be installed for reinforcement.

The city will be responsible for less than 25 percent of the project costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay \$81,750 and the state Wildlife Conservation Board \$41,625.

The wharf was last damaged by high surf and waves in January and February. It has been, however, re-opened to the public.

In other storm-related business, councilmen directed French to open the bid procedure for the repair of the Stokton Avenue Bridge and Soquel Creek retaining wall. Both were damaged in the storm of '82.

The city, however, has been bogged down in governmental red tape. An authorizing agreement has been obtained which shows the federal government paying \$94,300 of the \$134,400 project.

Repairs will include a new protective bulkhead between the bridge and the Southern Pacific Railroad trestle on the west side of Soquel Creek, as well as repair of the concrete bulkhead under the bridge.

Permits have already been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, the state Department of Fish and Game and the state Coastal Commission. Construction is expected to start in September.

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