

Aptos Center Construction Halted By Order for Retroactive Permit

APTOS — The Central Coast Conservation Commission has halted construction of a \$4 million shopping center near the freeway here, demanding that it receive

retroactive commission approval.

The stop-work order by the commission has caused a layoff of workers, James Simms, vice president of the Carl N. Swenson Con-

struction Co., said.

The stop-work order came as the coastal commission's executive staff moved on an order by the attorney general's office, which pointed out that while the project had been under construction for some time, it only came within the limits of the coast zone in January.

For this reason, the commission staff said, the project at the Deer Park shopping center must get coastal commission permit.

Before the coastal zone was widened by recent state legislation, the proposed shopping center at the corner of Highway 1 and Rio Del Mar Boulevard had been under construction for several months; it is about halfway completed.

The construction has been proceeding under local permits.

Edward Brown, executive director of the commission, said the stop-work order had been issued "pending commission review" and issuance of a permit for the project.

He said his office is negotiating with the contractor to allow them to complete whatever work is necessary to make the job site safe.

He also said his office is working out a way for them to continue to work on the buildings that are under way the contractor "appears certain to be granted an exemption from the coastal zone regulations."

Simms said his company is taking "a cooperative approach" and has begun filing permit applications.

He said, though, that it will be about a month of delay involved and his construction company had to layoff its framing crew and would be laying off construction supervisors.

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