

# It's final: Coastal Commission gives Boardwalk its Double Shot

✓ Panel decides 125-foot tower poses no risk to birds

*Boardwalk*  
SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

SANTA CRUZ — The state Coastal Commission has pressed “go” on a towering ride that will lift riders more than 100 feet into the sky, then drop them screaming toward earth.

Thursday the commission unanimously signed off on the 125-foot-high Double Shot ride for the Beach Boardwalk. The ride will lift, then drop, 12 shrieking passengers at once. The tower will be the tallest ride in the amusement park's history.

The Santa Cruz City Council had previously approved the ride, overriding the objections of the advisory Planning Commission, but the state panel had final say.

The Double Shot is 55 feet shorter than a 1996 proposal that the city's Zoning Board approved, but which the Seaside Co. decided not to pursue after four appeals were filed against the decision.

Marq Lipton of the Seaside Co., which owns the Boardwalk, said he was very pleased, and not surprised, by the Coastal Commission's decision, and

that the only remaining step is to have the ride shipped to the Boardwalk. It should arrive next spring.

Susan Craig, a planner for the Coastal Commission, said the ride was subject to public meetings and a full staff report largely because of the controversy. Critics had insisted the ride would block views and that migratory birds would squash themselves against it.

“We talked about the height issue and the bird issue,” Craig said. “We found that it is taller than existing development but doesn't harm significant

4-17-04  
views because it is narrow. The city took precaution with the birds by deciding not to have red lights or spectrum lights (on the tower.)”

Opponents, including the Pelican Network, an environmental group headed by a former Santa Cruzan, orchestrated an e-mail campaign against the tower, while supporters said it would beef up city revenues and spice up a family amusement park with a slightly scarier new attraction.

The project will cost the Seaside Co. about \$1.6 million.