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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ BEGINS MAJOR EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY PROJECT

After eighteen months of planning, the City of Santa Cruz will celebrate the beginning of the utility and streetscape replacement project with a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, August 12 at 9:30 am on the northwest corner of Cathcart Street and Pacific Avenue. The project is the largest single reconstruction venture planned for downtown Santa Cruz, and represents the culmination of one and a half years of earthquake recovery planning by Vision Santa Cruz, the 36 member public advisory committee.

Phase 1A utility replacements will include an estimated 2285 feet of sewer pipe, 2325 feet of water pipe, and 1210 feet of storm drain. Phase 1B estimates are pending. Subsequent streetscape replacements will include trees, benches, sidewalks, pavement, and street lights.

Work is expected to continue on the project until June, 1992, with a break during the 1991 holiday shopping season. The infrastructure is currently planned to be completed in three phases. During Phase 1A, scheduled from August 1991 through March 1992, trenches will be opened two blocks at a time on Pacific Avenue between Cathcart and Water Streets. Phase 1B, the utilities between Cathcart and Laurel Streets, will begin early in 1992. Trees, pavement, sidewalks, street lights, and benches will be installed between April and June 1992.

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Groundbreaking 2-2-2

Construction working hours for the infrastructure project will begin at 7:00 am and will conclude by 6:00 pm each weekday. Every effort will be made to avoid working weekends or during the evening.

The Groundbreaking on August 12 represents a major step toward downtown earthquake recovery. "We are undeniably on our way to recovery," said Patricia Calvert, Executive Director of The Downtown Association of Santa Cruz. "The next year will present some difficulties, but there is no question that the City of Santa Cruz and downtown business and property owners are committed to creating a vibrant, vital and active central business district. By making this kind of team effort to work through our reconstruction, we can enjoy a greatly improved Pacific Avenue when the project is completed."

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