

# Beach Drive, Capitola wharf plans whiz through Coastal Commission

Reconstruction of Rio del Mar's Beach Drive and Capitola's Wharf won easy approval Monday evening from members of the regional Coastal Commission.

But Capitola is facing an additional \$100,000 bill to rebuild the century-old wharf.

In two separate actions, the Commissioners unanimously authorized Capitola to proceed with rebuilding several buildings on the

pier, and for the county to spend upwards of \$1.4 million to build a 2,500-foot seawall along Rio del Mar's Beach Drive.

The Commission approved the steel piling-wooden bulkhead seawall proposed by the county, but the county will have to build four instead of three stairways from Beach Drive to the sand below.

Commission executive director Ed Brown will also have final review of the

plans before construction can actually start.

Brown will also have final review authority over the final plans to rebuild several buildings on the Capitola Wharf.

Capitola will have to develop a water safety and rescue program as part of the boat launching and mooring operation, adjust its shuttle bus operations to accommodate early morning wharf users and set aside 10 parking spaces for boat

trailer storage daily from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Coastal Commission approval for construction of the concessionaire buildings on the Capitola Wharf comes three days before the City Council will have to decide on whether to commit another \$111,257 to reconstruction of the basic wharf.

Burrell said the state Wildlife Conservation

Board may agree to pay 75 percent of the additional cost, bringing the city's commitment down to \$28,000.

"The most significant reason for the additional cost has been the finding of much more extensive dry rot in the structural components and the presence of marine borers in the pilings," Burrell is telling the City Council.