

# SC Mall Outlook Bright—Sign-Up Tops 50 Pct.

By Don Righetti  
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The sun is breaking through for Santa Cruz' Pacific Garden Mall.

The mall petition team yesterday passed the 50 per cent mark in its sign up of Pacific Avenue property owners. Signing of the Palomar Hotel brought the total to 53 per cent of the square footage of property facing Pacific Avenue in the mall zone.

The landmark percentage level caused jubilation in the mall committee.

"For the first time we can really see daylight, with only 7 per cent to go," declared Committee-man Jim Hammond.

Technically, the committee could take its project to the city council now and the mall could be approved by a four-fifths council vote.

But the committee is shooting for 60 per cent. "We want a better vote of confidence before we take it to the council," Hammond said. "We want more than just a majority."

At the 60 per cent level the council can approve the project by a simple majority vote.

Hammond and Charles "Chuck" Abbott, who headed the committee's petition drive, now expect the sledding to be downhill all the way. They think they'll hit the 60 per cent mark within a month.

Abbott said petition progress was slowed in the beginning because some property owners were afraid they might oppose the majority by signing.

"Now that we have a majority," he reported, "we think the others will come along."

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