THE FIRST STEP IN THE FORMAL APPROVAL PROCESS FOR A NEW HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN SANTA CRUZ IS OVER. THE SANTA CRUZ CITY PLANNING COMMISSION GAVE THEIR RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE COAST SANTA CRUZ HOTEL PROJECT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND THE CITY COUNCIL. IF APPROVED BY THOSE BODIES, THE WEST CLIFF DRIVE PROJECT WILL MOVE ONTO THE COASTAL COMMISSION. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS, ALTHOUGH OFFERING APPROVAL, ALSO VOICED CONCERNS THEY FEEL MUST BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE PROJECT BEGINS.