

# County vote on Wingspread gets cloudier

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SANTA CRUZ — The question of whether county voters will get to pass judgment in June on a final version of the controversial Wingspread Beach project was further clouded by a county Board of Supervisors action Tuesday.

The board has already given final approval "in concept" to Wingspread, but has said that nothing concrete will happen on the project until it passes muster by voters.

But the actual next step for Wingspread is the California Coastal

## Coastal panel's changes may not be on ballot

Commission, which has to approve the county-approved plan that would allow developer Ryland Kelley to build 468 hotel-style condominiums, a three-hall performing-arts complex, a conference center, restaurants, shops and sports fields on the ocean-bluff 66-acre Porter-Sesnon property in Aptos.

The Coastal Commission staff, however, is advising the commissioners not to consider Wingspread until the commission's

March 22-25 meeting in San Francisco.

Waiting until March would be a problem, according to County Counsel Dwight Herr, who says that would mean any changes proposed by the commission could not be included on the June 1988 ballot.

Ballot measures for that election must be approved by March 1, according to Herr.

With that in mind, the board voted Tuesday to recommend that the

Coastal Commission take up Wingspread at its Feb. 23-26 meeting. But that meeting will be in Marina del Rey, near Los Angeles — too far away, say board members, for most county residents interested in Wingspread to attend.

So the board is asking the Coastal Commission to hold a concurrent February meeting in San Francisco, to consider only the Wingspread issue.

Supervisor Gary Patton, who has

steadfastly opposed Wingspread, said splitting off the Coastal Commission's February meeting for a San Francisco-Wingspread marathon is a "good idea" that has little likelihood of happening.

Patton accused the board majority that supports Wingspread of "disenfranchising" county voters by asking the commission to consider Wingspread in February.

Patton said it is "unfair" to ask that Wingspread opponents travel to Southern California to make their views known. The opposition says that the county's "gift-lease" agree-

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## Wingspread

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ment with Kelley is illegal and that the project should be scrapped and the property used for a park instead.

Only the "wealthy," said Patton, will be able to afford to go to Marina del Rey to address the Coastal Commission.

He said the Wingspread hearing should be in San Francisco at the earliest possible date.

Supervisor Robley Levy — whose crucial swing vote allowed Wingspread to gain 3-2 conceptual approval by the board — disagreed. Levy said it is more important for voters to know exactly what the project will be, before they vote on it.

Supervisor Joe Cucchiara, who has been the other board vote against Wingspread, said it is the board-approved Wingspread project that needs to be approved by voters, not the project that comes out of the Coastal Commission hearings.

Herr noted that the Coastal Commission in the past has split off meetings. Further, said Herr, if the Coastal Commission denies the county's application for a change in

coastal land-use policies so that Wingspread can be built, the project is dead and there is nothing to vote on.

After the board approved, by a now-customary 3-2 vote, asking the Coastal Commission to consider Wingspread in February — and to have the hearing in San Francisco — the also-customary board sniping broke out.

Patton said he was "disappointed in the extreme" to see the board majority "manipulate" and "disenfranchise" county voters.

Most of Patton's comments were directed at Levy, who responded that the "larger issue" is the "gutting" of the Coastal Commission by the Deukmejian Administration and by the federal Commerce Department. The result, said Levy, is that the Coastal Commission does not have the financial wherewithal to meet in two locations in one month.

The Coastal Commission will consider the board's request and set a hearing date for Wingspread at its meeting Thursday in San Francisco.