

Swimming pool complex proposal is alive again

3-28-84
By JAMIE MARKS

Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Aquatic Team's plan to build a swimming pool in Live Oak is afloat again.

Supervisor Dan Forbus brought a late item to the board Tuesday, asking his colleagues to shift \$75,000 out of a Live Oak Transportation Improvement Fund and apply it to the SCAT development.

With only Supervisors Forbus, E. Wayne Moore Jr., and Joe Cucchiara present, the board voted 3-0 for the suggestion. Final approval approval is set for the April 10 board meeting on the consent agenda.

Two supervisors had to leave early to attend a funeral, and were not present for the late-morning vote.

The improvement fund is one of several sources of money earmarked for the Live Oak area.

Two members of the Live Oak Neighborhood Association asked board members whether this fund was the same one set aside to build sidewalks, gutters and drains.

When Supervisor Forbus assured them it was not, they asked board members to approve the funding.

Last week the board placed the project in jeopardy, said SCAT supporters, when it required a \$70,000 left-turn lane be built at the 17th Avenue entrance to the proposed park.

Tuesday, LONA members Carolyn Bartz and Janet Beautz questioned why the turn lane was so expensive, pointing out that another project just down the

street has a \$10,000 left-turn lane requirement. That project is being proposed by Volunteers of America for low-income, elderly housing.

"The crux of the matter is the \$10,000 versus the \$70,000," said Beautz. "Why the difference?"

She said she hoped a cheaper alternative could be found, adding, "We don't need an extravagant left-turn lane."

Under the terms of the agreement reached Tuesday, SCAT will have to pay back the \$75,000 loan within three years of the opening of the recreational-vehicle park.

The RV park is the first phase of the project. SCAT plans to build the RV camping area into a money-maker that will in turn generate enough money to get the swimming pool off the ground. The state Coastal Conservancy has given SCAT a \$235,000 no-interest loan for the RV park, but funding for the estimated \$10 million swimming pool still needs to be found.

The SCAT property is on the former Granite Rock Company land near the railroad tracks on 17th Avenue in Live Oak.

Beautz charged the VOA housing project, which is less than half a mile from SCAT's park, "Came in here with all sorts of problems...But currently the Planning Department is writing for federal grants (for it) on county time."

She said although some supervisors have said the standards for any project should be applied equally, "There's always a way" to get a plan through the red tape if it has more than "grudging acquiescence."