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Surfer restrictions to be considered by council

Surfers would be "blackballed" from the riding the waves off the San Lorenzo River river mouth during certain hours to be set under an ordinance being considered by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The council will consider the "urgency" ordinance among items on its 4 p.m. agenda Tuesday when it meets at City Hall.

It also holds a 7:30 p.m. session, generally for planning items.

The surfer ordinance is needed immediately, according to Parks Director Jim Lang, because last winter's rain created a sandbar that allows swimmers and surfers to get a few hundred extra yards out into the ocean.

It has created a conflict for ocean space that has led to several minor accidents.

Lang said the general resolution will be to signal surfers and other water sports equipment users that they must leave the

ocean waves to the swimmers at certain times.

They'll be appraised of those hours by the city's flying a "blackball flag" — a 2x2-foot yellow flag with a one foot black ball in the center — and they'll be required to leave the water.

Lang said he also wants the discretion to fly the black ball for swimmers, if that seems a good idea. He'll meet with surfers groups to explain the necessity for restricting use.

The area to be regulated is between West Cliff Drive, Beach Street and East Cliff Drive.

Concerning other items, the council will be asked to contract with the County of Santa Cruz to allow city housing developers to tap into the \$40 million in housing bonds the county could sell if there's enough developers interested.

It will also be asked to consider a

request by the director of public works that a four member crew be hired to begin the remodeling and expansion on a \$2.9 million municipal wharf development project.

The director also wants to buy a used crane-pile driver at \$13,000. The city would cover the \$109,620 in immediate men and equipment costs until state and federal funds pour in.

The project will need to be advertised again, according to the finance officer, to line up businesses for the 20 new commercial spaces the project will create.

Rent for the spaces would be at \$15 a square foot for foods establishments, or broken down into a percentage of gross sales. It would demand 6 percent from restaurants, 5 percent from fish markets and 10 percent from fast food places.

Retail stores would also be at 10 percent.

In requests from councilmembers to the board:

Councilman Joseph Ghio wants the zoning board's approval for review of the amphitheater at Bayview School.

Ghio said, "The question of 'noise' should be reviewed and the conditions granting the application also should be reconsidered.

"For example, a six-month review is not adequate (and) it should be for a year since winter use is different from summer use."

Councilman Bruce Van Allen wants the council to come out in support of Proposition 11, the bottle initiative on the November ballot that will require deposits on beverage containers.

During the 7:30 p.m. session, the council is scheduled to complete a number of rezonings that have had their first hearings.