

# How did Wingspread get in here?

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SANTA CRUZ — An opponent of the newly approved Wingspread Beach development commandeered a press conference from Assemblyman Sam Farr this morning, as the political fallout continues from this week's Board of Supervisors action on the controversial coastal development.

Farr had been joined by Hal Levin of the Sierra Club's Ventana chapter to ballyhoo a package of bills aimed at protecting the coastline from oil drilling, toxic-waste dumping and sewage effluent.

But when it came his turn to speak, Levin seized on the occasion to excoriate the Wingspread development and hint anew that local environmentalists are poised for a recall drive against Second District

Supervisor Robley Levy, who cast the deciding vote on the issue.

Farr subsequently characterized Levin's performance as a "hijack effort."

The press conference, which began shortly after 10 a.m., moved along smoothly at first, with Farr ticking off a list of threats to the coastline and its vital tourism, fishing and agricultural industries, and steps being taken in Sacramento to safeguard coastal resources.

Farr then introduced Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce Vice President Gary Reece, who explained why the chamber was trying to "work together with environmentalists to solve mutual problems."

Then the assemblyman turned to Levin.

The Sierra Club spokesman talked

about offshore oil drilling's threat to the coast. Then, with the TV cameras rolling, Levin added, "Finally, we have in Santa Cruz a project (Wingspread) which is a threat to our coast."

Asserting that the development, which was conceptually approved by supervisors Tuesday night on a 3-2 vote, was "not coastal-dependent," Levin said he hoped that efforts in Sacramento to "strengthen the Coastal Act" would enable Wingspread foes to block the project.

Levin was then asked if the Sierra Club would back a recall of Levy, who cast the decisive vote on Palo Alto developer Ryland Kelley's plan to build a condominium-conference center, athletics fields and a three-hall performing arts facility on the

66-acre Porter-Sesnon property in Aptos.

"There has been discussion of a recall," Levin said. "There has been discussion of actions which will be taken by the environmental community.

"There has been some discussion of who will hold the (Second District) supervisors seat."

Levin said environmentalists would announce their plans at a press conference next Tuesday.

A miffed Farr told The Sentinel later that Levin had "gotten totally off track."

"That was a hijack effort," Farr said.

"I told him I didn't think that was appropriate. I told him, 'If you want to talk about (Wingspread), hold your own press conference.'"