

Moore proposes fee for drainage

By STEVE SHENDER

Pajaro Valley Supervisor E. Wayne Moore said today he will soon propose a tax on all new construction in the Pajaro Valley to raise funds for improvement and maintenance of the area's storm drainage system.

Moore said he would combine forces with Second District Supervisor Robley Levy to push the tax with the Board of Supervisors. The tax, which would apply to new construction only and would be levied at the rate of 20 cents per square foot, would be imposed in a newly created assessment zone. The zone's boundaries, Moore said, would coincide with those of the Pajaro Valley Storm Drain Maintenance District.

"I believe there needs to be a complete revamping and resurrection of the Pajaro Valley Storm Drain Maintenance District," Moore said today. Noting that current property tax levies provide only half the funds needed to maintain levees and pumps and clear creek beds in the district, Moore said his proposed tax on new construction would "be the vehicle we need" to raise the additional funds.

The Fourth District supervisor said he would meet today with Watsonville Mayor Bill Johnston to discuss the tax, which he said he will propose to the Board of Supervisors in about two weeks. "In order for this thing to fly, the city needs to go along with it," Moore said this morning, explaining his meeting with Johnston.

Moore said he as yet has no definite figures as to how much money would be required to make

the improvements needed to prevent the kind of flooding that occurred here in early January. "We're talking hundreds of thousands of dollars," said the supervisor, who also said he did not yet know exactly how much money the 20-cent tax on new construction would raise. He promised to have those figures shortly.

Moore also said today that he had asked the county administrative officer to advise him, "in writing," of the extent to which residents of his district would benefit from the \$30-a-house special tax proposed by the Board of Supervisors to raise funds for repair of roads damaged by the Jan. 4 storm. The tax measure will be put before county voters June 8.

The supervisor said he had already received "some indications" that the tax would benefit residents of his district and promised, "When I see that (how residents would benefit), I'll get out and campaign for it."

Moore said he would not in any case campaign against the tax, which he said he had never really opposed.