

Capitola council asks for study of Soquel

Capitola city staff will be examining the quality of water flowing into Noble Gulch, and hence into Soquel Creek, with an eye towards improving the purity.

City councilmen told city manager Max Kludt Monday night to make the study after a lengthy discussion about storm water runoff into the gulch. The discussion began after the council was asked to approve negative environmental impact declarations for a 12-unit apartment complex to be built at 721 Rosedale, and also a 4,400 square foot commercial building at 1360-41st Ave.

What concerned councilman Michael Routh was the cumulative impact of the oil, gasoline and other pollutants that flow into Nobel Gulch from the Rosedale area, and eventually add to the pollution count in Soquel Creek.

Councilman John Dixon said it was time for the staff to take a look at the problem.

Referring to the 12-unit apartment that has spaces for 22 cars, Routh said "the impact by themselves is insignificant, but the cumulative impact is something else."

The council didn't want to hold up approval of the Rosedale Avenue project while the Noble

Gulch problem is studied and a solution is found.

And councilman Tom Mason, a civil engineer, felt it would be unfair to the owners of the few remaining undeveloped parcels in the area to require them to pay the cost of a solution. City planner Pat McCormick concurred, saying "if we come up with a solution, then we'd better come up with a solution for the problem we've created in Capitola for the past 100 years."

"Even though this project isn't going to contribute significantly," Routh added, "in the long run, even it will have an effect and maybe it is time to have the staff take a look at it."

Water contamination of Soquel Creek has been a concern of the county environmental health department and the city council for several years. Each year, Capitola dams the mouth of Soquel Creek, creating Capitola Lagoon, a favorite spot for children. And for the last several years, the health department, after sampling the water, has posted signs declaring the creek water to be contaminated beyond the levels considered by health officials to be safe for water contact sports.

The source of that pollution hasn't been located, Kludt

pointed out to the councilmen, even after five years of intensive investigation. But those water samples show the water entering the city near Disco is relatively pure, with fecal coliform counts far below the danger level. But samples taken from the mouth of Nobel Gulch show very high coliform levels, indicating that the pollution source is somewhere in that area. Attempts to track it down over a period of several years have been unsuccessful.

At the end of the discussion, the negative declarations were approved, clearing the way for Coastal Commission consideration of the projects.

In other action:

— Kludt asked the council for a resolution declaring El Camino

Medio to be a one-way street. When passed, this will give Kludt, as city street superintendent, the authority to restrict parking on one side of street, thus alleviating complaints from residents that overflow parking from the Capitola theater is blocking access to their garages.

— City attorney Richard Manning reported that he had filed a complaint against Mrs. Virginia Gregory, charging her with violation of a city ordinance by refusing to trim a hedge to city code specification. The offending

hedge is at the corner of Cliff and Fairview Avenues.

— The city council granted a use permit, based on recommendations by the city planning commission, for a wholesale antique business in the old Totten's welding shop, 718 Capitola Ave.

— The city council adopted a resolution setting up the 1976 weed abatement program.

— The council set public hearings on rezoning of property along Soquel Creek, and along Park Avenue for March 22.

— Adopted a treasurer's report and warrant list. The treasurer's report shows a working balance of \$499,472.18. A warrant (expenditure) list totalling \$71,555.91 was also approved. The expenses included \$43,335.20 for payrolls in February, \$5,058.99 to architect Doug Messini as a final payment for his city hall design; \$1,529 to Chiorini, Hunt and Bouchard, accountants, for an annual audit; \$2,350 to Pete Cristich and Son for construction of a barrier and transition on Park Avenue; \$2,011.86 to PG&E for January electrical service;

Creek pollution

\$302.34 to Pacific Telephone for January telephone service; and gasoline deliveries in