

East Cliff Drive residents in 'waiting zone' concerning possible meter installations

Residents in the East Cliff Drive area are currently in a "waiting zone" when it comes to the possible installation of parking meters in front of their homes.

County Board of Supervisors directed the public works department to develop an over-all plan for the area from Fifth to 41st Avenues and report back on January 12.

A disappointed group of area residents attended the meeting, but were not allowed to voice their objections to the parking meter proposal because of the supervisor's crowded agenda.

Presently, the proposed area has "no parking" signs because of increased problems of traffic, trespass, litter and other violations of personal rights. Residents want these signs to stay up.

STUDY METERS

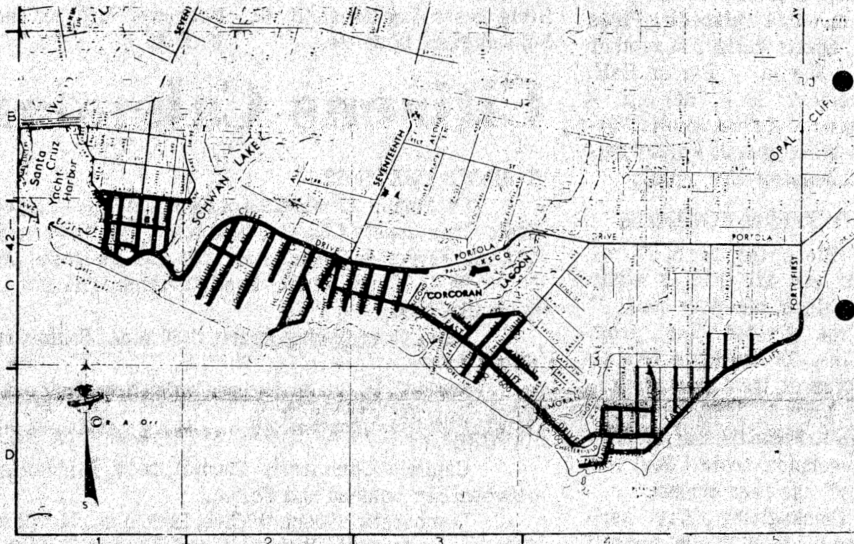
On October 12, supervisors directed the public works department to do a preliminary study on the installation of parking meters to take the place of the "no parking" signs.

"The creation of a metered parking zone would generate the revenues required to take positive actions such

as extended police protection, street improvements, life guards, litter collection and trash control, off-street parking lot acquisition and beach restroom facilities," D.A. Porath, director of public works, told the super-

visors Tuesday.

Porath noted that such a zone would "initially be considered an undesirable impact upon the residential area involved," and he recommended that a public hearing be held.



DARK AREAS show the proposed locations of parking meters along East Cliff Drive from 5th to 41st Avenues. The Board of Supervisors continued the matter until January 12 at Tuesday's meeting.

Porath's study estimated that the total annual operating and maintenance costs of the parking meters would be \$76,000. Estimated annual revenues would be about \$93,280 above annual operating costs.

FORBUS OBJECTS

Supervisor Dan Forbus (1st district-Branciforte-Soquel) objected to installing parking meters.

"I don't think metering the street is going to help the residents," Forbus said. "It would only run them out of a place to park."

Supervisor Dale Dawson (2nd district-Aptos) asked Porath, "where are these people parking now?"

He explained that they have been moving out to areas of private property available on East Cliff Drive and to the areas east to the Moran Lake area.

PATTON'S CONCEPT

Supervisor-chairman Gary Patton explained his concept of metered parking as:

- It does not prohibit members of the public at large from using the street.

- It generates revenue which then can be used to alleviate some of the

problems and hopefully find some solutions.

- It puts the charge on the users to park on the street.

"It's a very interesting concept and should be explored," concluded Patton. "I would support a full public discussion on this matter."

Porath concluded that by the January 12 meeting concerning the meters, a large plan for the entire area would be finished including suggested areas that are available where lots could be purchased for parking.

RESIDENTS PROTEST

About 12 letters were sent to supervisors all protesting the installation of parking meters.

The letters agreed with Dr. Werner Stamm's feelings on the issue. Stamm wrote that the "no parking" ordinance did "greatly alleviate traffic noise, congestion, reckless speeding and the amount of garbage dumped into the neighborhood."

He continued that the proposed installation of parking meters "would only open Pandora's Box again for the daily and nightly carnival with the traffic noise, the speedsters and garbage."

It appears the residents will have the "green light" to voice their objections by the time January 12 comes around.