

Rio group objects to LCP change

By BOB SMITH

A state coastal commission staff recommendation to change the Santa Cruz County Local Coastal Plan designation on a key Rio del Mar parcel was attacked sharply Monday by Rio del Mar Improvement Association directors.

The State Coastal Commission will hold a public hearing — the first of scheduled meetings — today at Fort Mason's Building A in San Francisco on the Santa Cruz County LCP.

Santa Cruz County Supervisors have scheduled a public hearing next Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., at the County Government Center, to review the state commission hearing.

RDM directors were irate that a commission staff report is recommending that the Dennis-Marani property on the bluff overlooking the Deer Park Shopping Center be desig-

nated high density residential, making it suitable for low and moderate income housing.

Santa Cruz County supervisors have already approved an LCP designation for low density residential, similar to the single family residential neighborhoods now adjoining it on the west and south.

RDM director Frank O'Connell accused the coastal commission staff of waiting until after local hearings had been concluded and then trying to subvert the public's will by recommending the state commission change the designation from low density to high density housing.

"I suggest we take a stand against this sort of shenanigans, otherwise the professional bureaucracy will plan you out of business," O'Connell said.

Nicki Pecchenino, aide to County Supervisor Robley Levy, assured the directors

that her boss continues to support the low density residential usage called for in the county-adopted LCP.

"I can assure you that the Board of Supervisors is 100 percent behind the LCP — there were a lot of compromises put into that plan," she told the RDM directors.

O'Connell was critical of Association President Mel Fields writing a letter to the county Zoning Administrator, objecting to plans by the Atlantic Richfield Co to convert the Arco station at the freeway and Rio del Mar Drive into an AM-PM Mini Market. O'Connell dropped his opposition to Field's position, taken on behalf of the Association, but first told other directors that the "Association has just been through an exercise with the Local Coastal Plan about government interference with private property right.

"Now, it seems, we are

calling on the government bureaucracy to interfere with a business which is not committing aggression on the neighborhood."

Field said the Association, in the past, has objected to the increased traffic at the freeway off-ramp, adding that "the community was very much in favor of what the county is doing — even to the point of the sign being a part of the wall (instead of a free-standing sign.)

"I have not found anyone in the community in favor of the store," Fields added. "The one on the Esplanade is a gathering place and this could very well be the same.

"I agree that private property rights should be respected but we are here to represent our members," Fields added.

Other directors sided with Fields, and did not take him up on his offer to

write a second letter to the county, rescinding his first one.

In other action, the board approved a nominating committee report recommending the re-election of two directors and the election of two new ones.

Seeking re-election are Association vice-president Ray Garcia and director Bob Curtiss. Fields and Director Ollie Syn are not seeking new terms. To replace them, the nominating committee is recommending the election of Beverly Moore and Ralph Burry.

Mrs. Moore lives at 405 Dorsey Drive, Rio del Mar, and has been an association member since 1973. She has worked in the advertising and promotion field and, with her husband, has been a publisher of a weekly newspaper. She has a daughter, two stepsons, niece and four grandchildren.

Burry lives at 416 Seaview Drive, and has been an Association member since 1969. He says he is "80 percent retired" following a career as the owner of paper product businesses, and as an investment counselor in real estate and securities. He served on the Saratoga City Council from 1964 to 1968, is married and has two children.

REFERENCE

ARTOS BRANCH

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARTOS, CALIFORNIA 95003

GREEN SHEET

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