

Levy hedges on freeway access

Aptos-Capitola Supervisor Robley Levy has had little to say recently about the controversial Wingspread Beach development proposal, but in an interview yesterday she revealed a few of her thoughts and feelings on the subject.

Levy has become a focal point in the bitter dispute because she holds the swing vote on the Board of Supervisors on the development.

The fate of Wingspread now appears to hinge on a requirement imposed by the supervisors at Levy's request when they tentatively approved the project last March.

Levy's condition required Palo Alto developer Ryland Kelley to provide "direct freeway access" to the conference center, condominiums and a performing-arts complex he proposes to build on the Porter Sesson property in Aptos.

Kelley has balked at the condition. More significantly, officials at state Department of Transportation, which must approve the freeway on-ramps and off-ramps, have indicated freeway access there was neither desirable nor necessary.

County planners are expected to issue recommendations this afternoon as to whether the supervisors should delete or uphold the freeway access condition.

The supervisors are expected to consider the recommendations next Tuesday when they review Kelley's revised appli-

cation.

The complications surrounding the freeway access again put the spotlight on Levy, who holds that crucial vote.

If Levy insists on direct freeway access, she would likely kill Wingspread because it's

final report did not contain such a recommendation, Levy said, "There may very well be questions for staff."

Levy defended her integrity when asked about rumors spread by Wingspread opponents. Those opponents have

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doubtful Caltrans would approve the proposal. If she agrees to drop the requirement, she will anger many of her constituents who oppose Wingspread and dread the traffic problems the project might cause.

Yesterday afternoon, Levy refused to say which way she's leaning. She said she wanted to make her decision at a public meeting after she had reviewed the recommendations of county planners and information provided by Caltrans.

When asked if she had foreseen problems obtaining Caltrans approval of an additional interchange, Levy said, "obviously not," and said, "I'm not a transportation engineer."

The draft report prepared by county planners on Wingspread didn't contain a specific recommendation on the question of direct freeway access. When asked how she would act if the

suggested Levy knew it would be impossible to provide freeway access, but imposed the condition anyway to give the impression she was looking for a solution to traffic problems.

"I've been trying to have no secret agenda," she said. "I've been trying to deal with a complex agenda in as straightforward a way as possible. I'm trying to make a sound judgment on the basis of what will serve the community well."

When asked if she would consider deleting the freeway access requirement in favor of another acceptable solution to the traffic problems, Levy said somewhat cryptically, "That's a significant issue."

Levy said she knew her personal style could be frustrating to people who look for a quick decision.

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—Adriana Reyneri