

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
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Aptos Fire District Passes New Budget

The Aptos Fire District board of directors, as planned, approved the district's 1977-78 budget Thursday, establishing a tax rate of 98 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Chief Richard Chinn said that the tax rate "is seven cents ahead (lower) of where we promised we would be at the time of the tax override five years ago."

The budget, passed unanimously by the board, allows for expenditures of \$988,963. Taxes will raise \$813,400; the rest of the money will stem from revenue from the department's weed abatement program, sale of equipment, carryover money and a bank loan for the purchase of firefighting equipment.

The district is planning to embark on a paramedic program, and that program, Chinn said, will not add to the district's cost. To finance the program, the district will sell unneeded equipment; personnel costs do not enter into the picture, he continued, because the men already are on the district payroll.