

Board sets hearing on latest Wingspread proposal

By ADRIANA REYNERI
STAFF WRITER

Santa Cruz County supervisors, after heated discussion last Tuesday, decided to hold a separate public hearing to consider a third Wingspread Beach plan for developing a conference center on the Porter Sesnon property in Aptos.

The third plan, known alternatively as Wingspread Beach Plan B-1 or Plan C, is an amended version of the original Plan B.

Both Plan B and B-1 propose a conference center, more than 500 condominium rentals, a three-hall performing arts center and public playing fields and trails to the beach on the 66-acre beachfront parcel next to New Brighton State Beach.

The main difference between the plans is the financing schemes. Plan B would be a completely private development, which would yield hotel taxes or in-lieu fees to the county. Plan B-1 would have

the county has a partner in the development.

Plan B-1 was contained in a report by County Administrative Officer George Newell on the potential public benefits of the Wingspread proposals.

The report was released Jan. 13, the day before the board was scheduled to hold its first public hearing on the Wingspread Beach Plan A, a smaller plan rejected by the board, and Plan B.

Wingspread opponents,

who've formed the coalition, Friends of Porter-Sesnon, told the board during time allotted them on Jan. 14 that the report had been submitted so late they didn't have time to review and comment on it. Partly in response to these complaints, the board deferred considering Plan B-1.

Last Tuesday, the supervisors tried to find an appropriate time to take up the issue. The mere act of asking that a hearing be set touched off a lively debate.

Aptos-Capitola Supervisor Robley Levy asked that the board allow 20 minutes at the next public hearing, which was to have been held last night at Aptos High School, for administrative staff to present the report on public benefits of Plan B-1.

Board Chairman Gary Patton, an outspoken opponent of all Wingspread proposals, strenuously objected to Levy's proposal.

Such a brief presentation of a

"very significant, very questionable" report would be a great disservice, Patton said. It would give the incorrect impression the board had no questions about the alternative plan.

"I think it's a terrible thing to do to the public," he said.

The supervisors voted to hold a hearing on Plan B-1 at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the board chambers at the Santa Cruz County Government Center.

REFERENCE

GREEN SHEET
February 5, 1986