

Foes of La Selva par course come up with alternate plan

By ALEXANDRA HAYNE
STAFF WRITER

La Selva Beach residents opposed to a jogging course in their neighborhood are offering a plan of their own.

Peter Stanger, a member of the La Selva Beach Recreation District board, called the plan "horrible" today, but also said he was happy that the group had come up with a compromise.

This exchange is the latest in a continuing battle over the use of a narrow strip of land, owned by the recreation district, running between Asta and Arbolado drives. The district wants to complete installation a par course that would include a jogging trail and 20 exercise stations with equipment, such as an overhead ladder or chin-

up bar, and instructional signs.

Eighteen months ago, the district installed the course, but when neighbors objected to it, it was discovered that permits were needed and that some of the equipment and signs had been installed on land the district didn't own. When the district board learned of its errors, it applied for permits and took down the equipment and signs not on district land.

Meanwhile, some of the people living along Asta and Arbolado drives organized themselves into a group called Friends of Asta-Arbolado and began appearing at Planning Commission meetings wearing green gift bows. Their leader, Ed Meagher, refused yesterday to comment on his group's latest plan.

The plan, described by Stanger, would put exercise equip-

ment on various parks throughout La Selva Beach and would route joggers on streets through the area. The neighbors' proposal was given to planning commissioner Ree Burnap, who brought it to Stanger last night.

Specifically, Stanger said, the plan calls for joggers to begin near the clubhouse and run up the disputed strip of land between Asta and Arbolado drive, using seven pieces of exercise equipment installed along it. Then, joggers would run over to San Andreas Park, where there would be one piece of exercise equipment.

From there, the route would take runners over San Andreas Road to Triangle Park, where three exercise stations would be installed. The park at the cliffs would be the next stop, then runners would go up Playa Bou-

levard past the business district, back to Triangle Park, over Florido Avenue to an exercise station near the library, then back down Playa Boulevard to finish with more exercise stations near the children's playground.

What is wrong with the neighbors' proposal, Stanger said, is threefold. First, it places exercise equipment on parks that are already developed and being used for other purposes, or overused, as in the case of the busy park by the cliffs.

Second, he said, "if you can remember where to go" on the complicated route, the exercise equipment placed as the neighbors have suggested would defeat the purpose of some of the apparatus. The warm-up and cool-down exercises, Stanger said, have to be completed all together to be effective, and

joggers should not, for example, have to run from one cool-down station to another.

And third, the neighbors' plan would not accomplish what the recreation district wanted to do in the first place, Stanger said, which was to develop a piece of unused district land.

"We want to develop a park that's not being used and that's costing the taxpayers a lot of money to be maintained," he said. "We were getting nothing out of that land."

"But to be fair about it, I want to go over (the proposal) with the (recreation district) board and discuss it and see what merits it has. Maybe the board would want to put some of the equipment on other lands."

The Planning Commission had asked that the two sides get together and hammer out a

compromise before the Jan. 14 commission meeting, when the matter was to be considered again. Stanger said the two sides did not meet.

In addition, he said he had asked the recreation district's lawyer, David Brick, to ask for a two-week postponement of the matter before the Planning Commission, so that he and the rest of the recreation district board members could consider the neighbors' ideas. The La Selva Beach Recreation District is scheduled to meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

"I'm really pleased that (the neighbors) are even considering the idea (of a par course)," Stanger said, "and overall I'm happy that they found the time to come up with a compromise of their own."