

# Koester Resigns

By **BILL NEUBAUER**  
Sentinel Staff Writer

David Koester, Santa Cruz city manager for 18 years, today submitted his resignation the City Council to become operations manager of Jubail, a coastal city in Saudia Arabia.

Koester's resignation becomes effective Feb. 27. He will assume his new post April 1.

Jubail is a new city under construction along the Arabian Sea in an area containing one of the greatest oil fields on earth, Koester said.

The government of Saudi Arabia has committed billions of dollars to create an industrial city of some 400,000 persons in a program through which oil money is being used to provide for the future welfare of the people, Koester said.

The city is being built by Bechtel Corp. of San Francisco and ultimately will include petrochemical plants, steel mills and refineries to generate future jobs and revenues, he added.

"It is an exciting challenge," Koester told The Sentinel. "This will be a totally planned city, with hospitals and libraries, a community center, parks and recreation facilities, fine streets and even freeways.

"It is really an outstanding program for the people, and for me it is an exciting climax to my career as a city manager," Koester said. "I have been a city manager in Santa Cruz and elsewhere for over 29 years. But I have never had a chance to participate in building a totally planned city from scratch. There has never been enough money in the U.S. to build a major industrial city from scratch as the Royal Commission is doing in Jubail.

"Another exciting aspect of the job is that the Saudi Arabian government believes strongly in training its own people to run the country. I will have a trainee as my counterpart as city operations manager. All the key jobs in Saudi Arabia eventually will be taken over by these people who will be trained as my counterpart will be trained. I like that.

"I think I have learned something about being a city manager and that I have something to pass on to someone else," said the 60-year-old city manager.

Koester became city manager in Santa Cruz on Oct. 1, 1962, and has had the longest tenure of any city manager since the voters in 1948 adopted the city council-city manager form of government.

Koester got the job here after a summer of political and economic upheaval during which his predecessor was compelled to resign and the assistant city manager, planning director, public works director, city attorney and lesser luminaries left. The city was broke and there was even a proposal to raze the dilapidated Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf because the Santa Cruz lacked funds to renovate it.

In his letter of resignation almost 18 years later, Koester stated: "I am pleased with the condition of the city as I leave. The financial position of the city is very strong. The city's facilities and equipment are modern and in first class condition. The city's operating departments and utilities are all in excellent condition, with ample ability and capacity to serve the needs of our citizens. We have first rate leisure facilities and programs. The city's staff departments, such as finance, planning, personnel, legal, are all very competent, utilizing the latest in techniques and equipment. Our management staff is a highly professional and competent group."



David Koester