

Board dickering on new well site

Soquel Water Board directors will negotiate with Aptos Seascap Corporation on the purchase price of two acres on Bonita Drive. If an agreement is reached, (the asking price is \$95,000 and the offer is \$92,500) a new well will be drilled on the location.

A well site must have a specific elevation and access, according to Bob Johnson, water district manager. The Aptos location is in keeping with the district's 1976 master plan.

Johnson recommended at the Monday night board meeting that directors approve the asking price of \$47,500 per acre, but director Larry Bargetto felt an offer of \$92,500 for both parcels was appropriate.

Directors had received an appraisal earlier for \$90,000 for the two acres, but Dean Wise of Aptos Seascap Corporation said based on his firm's cost analysis, the price was \$47,500 per acre.

Although directors decided in the public session to make the smaller offer, director Dan Kriege said such discussions were more appropriate in executive session.

In other business:

— Directors heard a report and approved \$10,000 for additional work on the Madeline Lane water rehabilitation project. Joseph Scalmanini of Luhdorff and Scalmanini, consulting engineers, made the presentation, telling directors the pump was inefficient due to incrustation, and fine sand particles were entering the water. While the well was flushed and the intake structure was swabbed to inhibit the sand from entering the water, Scalmanini said additional work is necessary, since there is still sand intrusion.

"This will never be a sand free well," Scalmanini warned. "The well has never been completely free of sand."

— Directors heard a report about the upcoming Water District open house on Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Experts from Santa Cruz County will lead gardening seminars, there will be films and a children's program.