

VCF Watsonville - General - 1990 -

# Mosquito abatement district annexation talks dead

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After months of talks, the possibility of getting relief for Watsonville and the rest of the mosquito-infested county by annexing to the North Salinas Valley Mosquito Abatement District was eliminated yesterday, when the district voted to against the idea.

Peter Ghormley, NSVMAD manager, said the district's nine-member board yesterday unanimously rejected annexation proposals from both the city and

the county, with funding being the main sticking point. He said if mosquito abatement was going to be provided, the two entities would have to pursue establishing their own abatement district.

Annexation was being pursued as the most cost-effective approach to the serious mosquito problem, with the NSVMAD having 40 years' experience to offer in expediting a program.

The North Salinas district wanted the annexed jurisdictions to pay for service by allocating a portion of property taxes directly to the district, as do those areas

already served, including the cities of Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey and North Monterey County.

But with property taxes already severely limited by Proposition 13, and the possibility looming that more would be grabbed by the state, that source of funding was rejected by Watsonville and the county.

The city and county proposed covering all the annexation, buy-in and service costs with a per-parcel service charge that would be assessed through establish-

ment of a county services area.

"The board felt the (service charge) was an inappropriate" method of payment, Ghormley said. He said he couldn't understand why buy-in to the district was being sought when "they wanted to change how we ran our program, how we funded it, and the structure of our entire board."

In addition to assessing a service charge rather than allocating taxes, Watsonville and the county were also seeking greater representation on the district board.

"We wish them well on their endeavor," Ghormley said, adding that the district would be willing to provide technical assistance.

Watsonville City Manager Steve Salomon said this morning the district board's vote was not unexpected. He said the CSA would still be pursued as it would provide "a revenue stream" for other possible abatement alternatives, including establishing a Joint Powers Authority representing Watsonville and the county.