

UCSC History
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City, County Planners Find No Disagreements On UCSC Environs Plans

By Wallace Wood

The general plan for development around the University of California at Santa Cruz came through a second city-county session almost unmarked last night.

City and county planning commissions will meet again at 7:30 p.m. on April 23, hoping to actually adopt the plan and send it on to the city council and county supervisors.

Low-key disagreements between the two bodies were not completely resolved at the evening meeting. University officials were present, but expressed no complaints about the plan or proposed changes.

One point of agreement was reached: No exact location for a future freeway link between Highway 17 and Highway 1 will be shown in the plan.

Second change, less clearly agreed to, will keep government financing and government agency control out of the construction of nearby housing. Other matters were left unsettled, with only unspoken agreements left to guide the two planning staffs in writing the final version of the plan.

Part of the reason there was little arguments among commissioners seemed to lie in the words of City Commission Chairman Richard Bailey. He noted that "if the plan on the wall looks the same five years from today, we won't be doing our job." He promised the city "will be working on this constantly."

A second reason was expressed by the author of the plan, consultant Sydney H. Williams, who added the plan is "not a zoning plan" and zoning probably will involve much more controversy.

In the give-and-take discussion, county commissioners won unspoken acceptance of their demand that private industry be given first crack in housing development. Williams had suggested that an agency such as the redevelopment agency or a non-profit land management corporation should have the power to direct development.

"Perhaps a committee including business leaders, city and county officials could be created to administer the plan," Williams said.

But county commissioners stood firm in demanding that "no quasi-public or public agency" other than city and county commissions should have control of development.

On the other hand the city seemed to win its point in promoting industrial development in West Santa Cruz, below the Highway 1 freeway.

Donald Younger, owner of an agricultural ranch in the area, has complained the "limited general industrial" general plan designation was only another term for undesirable heavy industry zoning.

He claimed that city officials were actually planning to extend "objectionable" uses, and pointed at the Walti-Schilling meat processing company as an example. He asked for light industry or research zones instead.

James Hammond, former chamber of commerce manager, said the area was unsuited to "precision" types of industry because of the salt air, and suggested that heavier uses are not objectionable.

Williams hastened to say that it would be a mistake not to allow some heavier industries in the Western City, but noted "there is no place for nuisance-type industries in the Santa Cruz Metropolitan area."

City officials reminded themselves they rezoned part of the area to industrial use earlier in the week. Commissioner Robert Maddock said "Let's leave it as it is (in limited industrial zoning). The performance standards to limit the industries will come later."

The development plan of low-density, low-cost housing around the principal university entrance in Cave Gulch brought warnings the area would be stripped of its present natural beauty.

Mrs. Geraldine McMurtry and Mrs. Edna Leonard both complained that renters and transients will downgrade Cave Gulch. Mrs. Leonard added the deep gullies on the branches of Wilder creek will make construction of high-rise apartment houses undesirable.

"You'll have to build a very high and very expensive bridge to cross those gullies," she told the two boards.

Another resident noted the "axis" of the university will face away from the city into the wilderness areas. "It seems to me they are leading into an inflexible layout. Are they going to be bottled up by topography?"

Chancellor Dean E. McHenry answered that "we're changing our plans every day, so I think you can say we are flexible."

McHenry and university planner Jack Wagstaff made few comments on the plan, other than McHenry's statement that "one of our purposes will be holding natural areas in reserve. These canyons that are an obstacle now will be precious in the future. I foresee a vast network of public parks around the university, to show our grandchildren how the world once was."

Alaskan Bibles To Be Replaced Free By Society

In a recent sketchy report received from Dr. Ross Paden, executive secretary for the Alaska State Council of Churches with offices in Anchorage, consultation with responsible denominational officials indicate that relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts are well under control among the churches damaged in the recent earthquake and tidal wave.

The chief concern is that of the long pull ahead in helping to re-establish persons and families in homes that have been destroyed or badly damaged.

Through the Western and Pacific regional office of the American Bible society, Bibles and New Testaments destroyed in the Alaska tragedy will be replaced free if requests are channeled through the Alaska Council of Churches Office, according to the Reverend James T. Smith, distribution secretary for the region which includes the State of Alaska. The Society is the Scripture translation, publication and distribution arm of 58 different denominations in the United States.

The Society already has been in contact with Anchorage and other communities of Alaska by short wave radio operated by the Rev. Richard West who covers the special ministries work for the region from his Denver headquarters.

The word fathom came to be used in measuring the depth of water in sailing days. Fathom literally means "outstretched arms" and