

Aptos Chamber Supports Concept Of Wingspread

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The proposed 630-unit, \$80 million Wingspread Beach development for the Porter-Sesnon property was endorsed in concept by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce this morning.

The chamber unanimously endorsed the plan for the 66-acre property by applicants Hare, Brewer and Kelley upon the suggestion of Chamber President Glenn Specht.

Specht said the chamber's action was mostly for "a good and proper use of the property." She pointed out the "cultural services offered," which involves a performing arts center, as "something that will bring business to our community."

She added: "They (Hare, Brewer and Kelley) have made a commitment to our community. We felt it would be good for business to support them."

The chamber's preliminary endorsement comes three months after a slide presentation of the proposed development by applicant spokesman Tim Welch. At that chamber session, it was evident most members preferred to hold off judgment until the application moves through the county planning process.

However, since then the Board of Supervisors has refused to sign the necessary contract for an environmental impact report, possibly placing the project on the shelf for a few years.

Supervisors cited the ban on new water connections and well drilling in the area within the boundary of the Soquel Creek County Water District.

Water service has not been guaranteed for the proposal because Wingspread developers came in too late to get that from the water district, and a hookup moratorium was passed.

Hare, Brewer and Kelley recently extended its option on the property for 99 years. It is owned by the University of

California.

The chamber's endorsement came quickly as only director Chuck Holcomb questioned whether the chamber's action might be "redundant" since developers can't get water anyway.

Director Virgil Kester Jr. noted that the chamber was not recommending Wingspread to get water service over other developers. Specht added that the chamber simply was considering land use planning now.

Hare, Brewer and Kelley's proposal involves a performing arts, lodging and conference center. Featured will be two domed performance halls, housing 1,000 and 500 seats. A theater "district" is proposed of restaurants, shops and galleries, as well as 630 units being divided among condominiums, homes, a hotel and low-cost apartments.