

*see also
Wingspread*

City after Porter-Sesnon

Capitola will take one more trip on the political merry-go-round and try to grab the brass ring of Porter-Sesnon.

The City Council Thursday night instructed its staff to start the proceedings leading towards another annexation bid for the 66-acre parcel on the eastern boundaries of the Midcounty city which has been jealously guarded by the county and those backing an incorporation of Aptos.

The council acted on Porter-Sesnon after receiving petitions from owners of land in two areas on the west side of the city, asking for annexation.

The council authorized City Manager Steve Burrell to proceed with the formalities needed to annex property on the northwest corner of 41st Avenue and Clares Street (including Burger King) and the land outside the city limits between 38th and Thompson Avenues, and Capitola Road and Brommer Street.

The city failed to win support in March, 1980 from the county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to expand its sphere of influence eastward from New Brighton Beach State Park to encompass the Porter-Sesnon property as well as

Pinetree Lane and Potbelly Beach residential areas.

The expansion was opposed by Hare, Brewer and Kelley, lessee of the property and its owner, the University of California, largely because the city council had gone on record a few months earlier as being opposed to Hare, Brewer and Kelley's Wingspread proposal.

LAFCO approved an extension of the city's sphere of influence then to include the Pinetree Lane residential area and a frontage parcel along MacGregor Drive owned by AMTRON Corp.

The new annexation bid was proposed by Councilman Michael Routh who cited a recent state appeals court decision in a Scotts Valley case, saying that spheres of influence were not a necessary precursor to a city annexation.

Capitola Mayor Jerry Clarke quickly agreed with Routh, calling it "an excellent idea since there has been a definite change in the political climate."

Capitola lost its first bid for Porter-Sesnon, in part, because of non-support by the commission's city representatives — Santa Cruz Mayor Joe Ghio and Watsonville City Council Charles Palmtag. Clarke said he didn't know if Capi-

tola would have Santa Cruz's support this time, but observers have noted that cities are now presenting a more unified front now in the face of county opposition to their annexation attempts.

Wingspread spokesman Tim Welch was unaware until Friday morning of the city move. His immediate reaction to the city proposal was: "We are happy with where we are in county and want to continue processing our application through the county."

Quoting Ryland Kelley, Welch noted, "It would have to go back through LAFCO again and we would oppose it there."

Aptos Chamber of Commerce president Mrs. Glenn Specht, one of prime opponents of any Capitola annexations east of the present city limits in the midst of New Brighton Beach state park, said the proposal was "just foolishness."

"Do they think Hare, Brewer and Kelly are going to go for it any more now than before?"

"LAFCO will follow the wishes of the property owner and they don't want to be in Capitola — unless Capitola has decided to give them a building.

"Are they (the Capitola City Council) unsophisi-

cated to the point they don't understand that they can't really take someone's property against their will.

"Officially, as the president of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, I would say that if the property owner and lessee don't want to be annexed, it won't be."

Mrs. Specht suggested that the move was an unnecessary expense to the county-funded LAFCO, and suggested the commissioners consider not accepting the city application.

"To put LAFCO to the expense when it has come up so recently is unfortunate. I can't see that the Hare, Brewer and Kelley position will change since Capitola hasn't changed its position.

"The Aptos Chamber feels that is part of Aptos and Capitola is being less than neighborly by intruding into our space," Mrs. Specht added Friday morning. "It is unfortunate that they feel it is necessary to put a government agency to the expense of once more making the decision that Porter-Sesnon is in the Aptos sphere of influence. It sound like the people in Santa Cruz who still talk about developing Light-house Point — those who think they can but don't realize it will never happen."