

Affects 7,000 Parcels?

Riparian Corridor Ordinance Is Passed

By PAUL BEATTY
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With strong supporting testimony from the public, supervisors Tuesday passed a "riparian corridor protection ordinance" that will virtually halt development within the waterway corridors of the county.

The board voted 4-1 with Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat opposing after stating her colleagues had made the ordinance too restrictive by requiring that all applicants for development provide a USGS map to prove they are not building within a riparian corridor, and also assuring archeological site protection within the waterways.

However, her concerns and those of the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors that the ordinance would affect "7,000 parcels," were drowned out in the testimony of a number of conservationist clubs and private citizens supporting the ordinance.

The ordinance will go into effect within 50 days and will allow development only by "exemption" within 50 feet of a year-round stream and 30 feet of an intermittent stream, marsh, or natural body of standing water.

It prevents the cutting of standing vegetation that is eight feet and taller, the filling or excavating within the corridor and the dumping of junk in the waterways.

Brad Macdonald, spokesman for the local board of realtors, argued that the county already has ordinances that will protect the waterways and that the ordinance offers "no benefits to

the landowner."

His testimony was cut short by Chairman Ed Borovatz who said, "If you're against it, say you're against, we hear the rest on your radio program."

His comment caused Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat to interject, "It's grossly unfair of you to keep referring to people's radio programs."

Both she and Macdonald have short programs over a local radio station and Borovatz and Liddicoat have a running battle over her comments.

At this point in the meeting, Supervisor Gary Patton broke in, "I hate to interrupt this interesting colloquy, but it is important we protect all the stream system (including the natural storm runoff channels) to protect fish downstream."

His remarks were supported by County Watershed Manager Ron Johansen, who noted, "There are benefits to protecting the intermittent streams."

That testimony was backed by members of the Sierra Club, Save San Lorenzo River and Citizens for Clean Water.

Dave Bockman of the local Sierra Club suggested a number of changes that were incorporated into the ordinance by Patton, including the exclusion of clearing in streambeds by any means, "motorized and otherwise."

Hilda Lans, who attends board meetings every Tuesday, commented, "If we did everything the Sierra Club wants, we would have all the trees, and all the builders and taxpayers with their hands chained to the trees."

Robert Frank, another citizen who expressed opposition to the need for a local ordinance to protect waterways, told the board that the California Department of Fish and Game already protects the streams.

Suzanne Schettler, speaking in support of the ordinance, said that fish and game only "protects the beds of rivers and not the corridor" and advised the board "the time is overdue when we should base our planning on the natural realms."

Max Hartstein, speaking for Citizens for Clean Water, said that in his time in San Lorenzo Valley since 1966 "I have watched the river being degraded until now we are denied use of it."

Liddicoat asked him if he thought it necessary the ordinance should be extended to protect "every little stream that does or does not have water," and Hartstein answered, "You and I have a basic disagreement, you think it's too stringent and I think it's barely adequate."

Others testifying in support included Bonny Gee, Nancy Ellis, Sue Haynes, Val Ahlgren, Carolyn Burton, Ann Gulliver,

Howard McCully, George Spiegelberg, Curt Smith, Steve Mills, Margaret Smith and a few others.

In casting the lone vote in opposition, Liddicoat said that in concept she could support the ordinance but that it had been

filled "with red tape."

She asked Planning Director Kay Bowden if it would not be possible for the planning department to take on the burden of proof that a development was in the riparian corridor, and Bowden answered that it

would place a heavy burden on her department.

She said the only way to cut down on the impact was to have the applicant provide the USGS map.

The board is scheduled to give final approval to the or-

dinance in two weeks, and it goes into effect 30 days after.

The board assured it would not be retroactive and Patton agreed it should not be used to prevent the building of small bridges to allow development across streams.



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County's Dump Fees Increased

Fees at the county's two dump sites will increase about 36 per cent in the 1977-78 fiscal year following unanimous action of supervisors Tuesday.

The new fee schedule to run the \$435,832 county dump operation will be \$1.65 per cubic yard, 40 cents a can to 20 gallons, 60 cents a can more than 20 gallons, 80 cents a car trunk load, with the minimum charge of 40 cents.

There is no charge on recyclable materials, and tires and old car bodies are set at 40 cents to \$10 for the cars.

Chairman Ed Borovatz told public works staff that he had heard many complaints from persons that dump fees have been preferential and that he wanted it ended. The board agreed that all fees should be non-discriminatory and equitable.