

SC-officials
EMPLOYEES
-CITY

City Plan Chief Walton Resigns

5-5-72

Neal Walton, the City of Santa Cruz planning director for 10 years, this morning announced his resignation.

He plans to join Jerry Tucker, a former county planner, in a private city and regional planning business with office headquarters at 2222 East Cliff Drive.

Walton, who has been in public planning since graduating in 1952 with a BA degree in geology-geography from University of Buffalo, said he made the decision after long thought because it offered the opportunity to concentrate on creative planning without so much administrative paper work.

Walton said he has high regard for the city staff, stating they are "people who know their business and really are professional in every sense of the word. Santa Cruz has been fortunate to attract and hold the quality of professional administrators it has."

Under Walton's planning direction since June 15, 1962, the city adopted its original General Plan in 1964, and more recently a revised zoning ordinance and subdivision materials.

However, he said the "one



Neal Walton

thing that stands out" is the policy basis of the City General Plan approved last year, and which Walton said, "I'm not leaving because I think we will be able to do a lot with from the standpoint of a planner. We will be able to work with people and relate

(Continued on Page

City Planning Chief Walton Resigns Post

(Continued From Page 1)

needs to that policy basis in city matters."

Walton believes strongly that the "attitude of growth for growth's sake is a thing of the past. I think it will result in more quality planning."

From a Buffalo, N.Y., planning staff member, Walton took a similar position in Kansas City, Mo., and was then county planning director in Platte County, Mo. He became chief of planning administration in Tulsa, Okla., until 1959, when he was hired as city planning director for both Manteca and Tracy through 1962.

He and his wife, Ruth, have three sons and live at 108 Prospect Court.

City Manager Dave Koester said Walton "has served Santa Cruz well during the past 10 years — a difficult period of rapid change. Substantial progress has been made in the city planning program under his leadership and because of this, Santa Cruz is now in a relatively good position to face the intense pressures of growth that are now upon us." Walton's resignation takes effect May 19.