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Annexation goes 'like clockwork'

The oft-delayed Aptos annexation to the Soquel Creek County Water District went off like clockwork Monday night at the district board of directors meeting.

Directors unanimously voted to add Aptos, Aptos Terrace, Seacliff, and Rio del Mar to the district. The areas are now served by the district.

The annexation will complete the annexation of all service areas to the Soquel district. It will mean a reduction in rates to water users of \$1 every two months on a minimum billing. There will be no tax increase, since the district is supported entirely by revenues.

No verbal protests were received, but there were four written protests. None of them explained the reason for the opposition, District Manager Robert Johnson said.

"It's just reflex action, I think," he commented.

Support for the annexation was expressed by Carl Crouse, representing the Rio del Mar Improvement Association, Walter Jordan, second district supervisorial candidate, and John Fitzgerald, president of the Seacliff Improvement Association and also a supervisorial candidate.

Annexation papers will be submitted to the Secretary of State, who will issue a certificate of annexation and send copies to the county recorder and assessor.

"This week, the area can be considered annexed, and two months from now, the Aptos area users will be billed at inside-district rates," Johnson said.

In other actions, the board:

—Awarded C & N Pump and Well of Santa Clara the contract for the Madeline Lane well on its bid of \$26,980, which was within \$80 of the engineer's estimate.

—Accepted a contract for water service to Country Club

Park Unit 5 in the Rio del Mar area. The 29-unit subdivision is located on an extension of St. Andrew Drive and was developed by James Dumond. Board President Kenneth Izant was authorized to sign the contract.

—Learned that the Cherryvale Ave. main improvement project is ready for final inspection. Residents have been served "for some time" and are very happy to be getting improved service, Johnson said.

—Authorized a small main extension service to Ernest Gotti on Hill St.

—Voted to serve Aptos-Seascape Unit No. 9 provided the company pays the proposed new storage and transmission fees, which have not been worked out yet.

—Heard a report that the district has hired a new field superintendent, Herman Weck, who will report to work June 5. Johnson said he has been in the water business since 1947.

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