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*Banks + Banking*

## County Bank Plans West Side Branch

The County Bank of Santa Cruz has applied for state permission to open its fifth branch office and third bank in Santa Cruz, President Ray Seller disclosed Friday.

Seller said the bank would be in the West Side business district. He added location, personnel to head the branch and size of the office have not been determined.

"The site and size of the branch will depend in part on a report of investigation by State Bank Superintendent William A. Burkett's office," Seller said.

The new office would make the bank's sixth counting the downtown main-office, the East Santa Cruz, Felton, Soquel branches and the office opened in Boulder Creek last June.

Seller claimed it would be a number of months before the routine check by the state and federal reserve board is completed.

"There is little question that the West Side needs a bank," Seller said. "We have a petition signed by 98 businessmen from the area. Also we expect to serve the burgeoning population west of Pacific avenue. The 1955 special census showed 7500 persons in the area. Current estimates top the 8600 mark."

The bank would be the first on the West Side; and according to Seller, "It is a logical expansion for the County bank into a continuing growth situation."

In the past 10 years, aggressive growth by the County bank has pushed 18,106,870 in assets from the then County First National bank and County First Savings bank to \$39,032,362 as of December 31, 1957. The present main bank and four branches boast 24,806 depositors with savings accounts crowding the top-most edge of a year by year graph of the bank's progress.