

8/24/82 *Student*
County, Watsonville

square off again *Gov. + Politic*

A friendly hand of self-claimed conciliation from county supervisors is expected to run into a buzzsaw of opposition in Watsonville.

The buzzsaw will be nothing new in the long-time fight between the two government agencies, but it will end a recent detente which existed the past few weeks.

This morning county supervisor upped their ante on the Errington Road sewer pipe size, going from 21 inches to 33 inches, but it's still too small for Watsonville council members.

The board's action drew a heated reaction from Watsonville Councilman Frank Osmer.

He said, "This is typical of what Robley Levy has been doing — she's been meeting with us and this was never agreed to and then she just ran it her own way.

"What this will do is make it impossible to sewer the Amesti Road area where septic tanks are leaking into Pinto Lake to a degree you can't swim in the lake."

Osmer has been joined by Councilmember Betty Murphy who has also gone on record saying that the Amesti Road area beyond the present service lines of the pipeline will need room in the pipe. They have said 33 inches won't allow that.

County Supervisor Chairman Robley Levy and Supervisor Gary Patton have resisted making the pipe any larger, fearing "it will be growth inducing."

Patton this morning said he's going to hold fast on the 33-inch size and added it was actually larger than he wanted.

He said there's an "official in Watsonville who owns farm land (he or she) wants to develop and has us pay the cost of sewers."

Patton said he wouldn't name the official since he hasn't confirmed the accusation.

Osmer said this morning, "Then he shouldn't have made the accusation." Osmer also said the city has no designs on the farm land in the as yet unannexed areas.

The sewer line is only one of the half dozen issues which keep Watsonville a long way away from the county center.

The county board had filed suit to stop the city's redevelopment agencies and also tried to block its expansion plans through the county's urban services line and its threat of power on the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Murphy and Osmer say the city has made the major moves to conciliation by scaling down its development plans, agreeing to the two-cent gas tax issue and holding back on redevelopment work.

The county, on its part, has withdrawn the suit, and agreed to a tax split on the agricultural land annexation that is to come before the local agency.

Watsonville Supervisor Wayne Moore voted against the board setting the 33-inch pipeline size, saying he wanted the county to take a looser position.

Supervisor Dan Forbus said it was "a negotiating position," but Patton said he would move no higher in pipe size.

The board's position will go to the city-county task force which is attempting to reconcile differences between the two jurisdictions.