

Land Swap Offered To Solve County's Boundary Problems

Boundaries, County

After 120 years as the state's second-smallest county, Santa Cruz County may grow just a wee bit bigger through a land swap with Santa Clara County.

The land swap, if approved, also would settle an old headache: the county boundary line near Summit Road.

A joint two-county citizens committee recommended the land swap in a report released Thursday in San Jose. No word of the report has been received here. The report will go to both counties' boards of supervisors for approval.

The biggest changes would involve a trade of 577 acres of Mt. Madonna Park, owned by Santa Clara County but now inside Santa Cruz County, for a future reservoir site.

Santa Cruz would get the future Pescadero reservoir site in return for giving up the Mt. Madonna land—and the \$10,500

in taxes that Santa Clara County has been paying this county for the park.

In all, Santa Clara County would get 777 extra new acres and Santa Cruz County would get 2,184 acres.

The stage for the swap was set back in 1850, when the boundary between the two counties was loosely described by the first state legislature as "along the summit of the Santa Cruz mountains." Even today, there is no full agreement where that summit line is.

This vagueness created law enforcement problems and tax assessment problems of proper jurisdiction.

Under the new plan, long stretches of Summit Road will remain in one county or another. The line crosses the road in only seven places.

The spots are at Skyline Boulevard and Black Road, and at Highway 17 (with the north side of the road in Santa Clara County); at Summit Road and Old San Jose Road, at Loma Preita Avenue and a fire control road, at Mt. Madonna Road, and Highway 152, Hecker Pass Highway.

The committee includes George Washington, Carl Crouse, and Douglas Foster of Santa Cruz County and Edward Steffani, Walter Doyle and Pearl Ertell of Santa Clara County.

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Probe Slated

SAN PEDRO (AP) — Representatives of the tuna fishing and canning industries have been asked to testify at a House subcommittee hearing in San Pedro Feb. 10. The committee is probing seizure of American tunaboats off the Ecuadorian coast.