

'Safety stripes' are OK with RDM board members

By BOB SMITH

Rio del Mar Improvement Association directors sparred again with a county official over plans to paint 2-inch-wide "safety stripes" along the sides of Clubhouse Drive, Rio del Mar Boulevard and Sumner Avenue.

And although the decision was inconclusive, several of the directors present at the meeting switched from supporting Association president Ray Garcia to backing the position advocated by Nicki Pecchenino, Supervisor Robley Levy's administrative assistant.

The association has been fighting the county's plans to paint the little white lines along the sides of the area's three major streets even before the County Board of Supervisors — at the suggestion of Supervisor Gary Patton — stopped calling them "bicycle lanes" and adopted the term "safety striping" when Garcia and other Rio del Mar residents said they wanted nothing to do with bike lanes in their neighborhood.

Garcia has been directing a rear-guard action against the safety stripes, directing several letters to Levy in an attempt to get her to switch her position and reopen the issue.

Those attempts have been unsuccessful so far, and Levy countered Monday afternoon, sending Pecchenino to the meeting, armed with quotes and opinions from California Highway Patrol Capt. Don Anderson.

"Let's talk about what the

project isn't," Pecchenino said. "It isn't a bike path. A bike path is normally five feet wide, is labeled a bike path and has arrows (denoting the direction of travel). This is shoulder striping. Shoulder striping indicates the edge of the 12-foot-wide road way. "The CHP and Capt. Anderson encourages shoulder striping wherever possible. It is an enforcement tool."

The striping will leave approximately 2½ feet of pavement on the right hand side of the striping, she said. County codes and state law require any parked vehicles to be parked completely to the right of the safety stripe.

"I believe in safety striping," Garcia said, "but do we need them on a residential street? This community has been here for over 50 years. Why do we need them now?"

"What I hear Nicki saying that I really like," director Harry Federico said, "is that it provides an area where people can safely park."

Added director Marilyn Brenner: "I find Nicki's presentation a lot more reasonable. When the kids get off the school bus and walk along Clubhouse Drive, I cringe until they are home. I would feel a lot safer about that with the stripes."

"I can't take exception to safety but we don't have room to park on Clubhouse Drive now," Garcia complained. "I don't really care about Capt. Ander-

son if we are going to create problems for people who want to park in front of their homes.

"To me," Garcia concluded, "it doesn't make sense."

"Well, maybe Capt. Anderson can convince us it has some sense," director Vince Casey said, asking for a meeting with the CHP commander. "Today, Nicki is making some sense. There are good reasons for what Nicki is trying to do."

The group agreed to seek a meeting with Anderson to discuss the Highway Patrol's reasons for wanting the safety striping.

In other business, Dick Menefee, area manager for the state park's Pajaro Coast area, told the board that he has been given permission to buy \$42,000 of rip-rap to protect some of the storm-damaged visitor facilities at Seacliff State Beach until permanent repairs can be made.

Menefee told the board that a department engineer from Sacramento was to have visited Seacliff Tuesday to examine the damage to the Seacliff pier and estimate the cost to replace about 40 missing pilings.

The engineer will also be asked to check on the cost of repairing the damaged plumbing underneath the restrooms at the "downcoast" parking lot. The underground plumbing was destroyed in the 1983 ocean storms that severely damaged the surrounding parking lot and seawall.