

Supervisor Levy defends Rio del Mar bike paths

By BOB SMITH

The war of the bicycle paths isn't over yet in Rio del Mar.

County Supervisor Robley Levy and Rio del Mar Improvement Assn. President Ray Garcia skirmished again Monday afternoon over the Board of Supervisors' decision to paint bicycle lanes despite the objections of the association.

"They coined a new name," Garcia told other directors. "We didn't like the name 'bicycle lane' so they called them 'safety stripes.'" Garcia repeated the association's position that the stripes on Rio del Mar Boulevard would be a safety hazard — not an improvement.

"I'm disappointed in the actions of the Board of Supervisors to force this upon us," he said. "I'm particularly disappointed in our supervisor's actions."

Mrs. Levy, defending her position, said the board has to be concerned with the safety of the pedestrians and the bicyclists, not just the motorist.

Garcia retorted: "Our con-

cern is for safety too, and we too represent the community."

Mrs. Levy also told the asso-

ciation that the board can't use the bicycle money for anything else. "It can't be used for patching potholes," she said.

That statement didn't sit well with Garcia either. He wanted to know from Mrs. Levy and Assemblyman Sam Farr why not — why it couldn't be spent for other things.

Farr said the state constitution requires part of the state's gas-tax revenue to be set aside for bike lanes; to which Garcia replied, "That tax money comes out of my pocket and I don't want to spend my money, period!"

"If you have concerns," Mrs. Levy fired back, "take them to your state and federal representatives and get the laws changed."

In a related matter, Garcia got approval from the other directors to send a letter to the county asking when the county would resume maintenance of the traffic islands at Rio del Mar Boulevard and Clubhouse Drive.

In other business, directors accepted the resignation of Betty Sparks from the board.