

Supervisors will consider plan to pay for public road repair

SANTA CRUZ — A county service area through which property owners in the unincorporated area would be charged for repairs to storm-damaged public roads will be discussed by supervisors Tuesday.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in Room 525 of the County Center.

As the first item on their regular agenda, supervisors will consider adopting a resolution of intention to use county service area charges to fund repair and reconstruction of county roads.

The resolution also sets a public hearing on the matter for June 21 at 10:45 a.m. in Room 525 of the County Center.

Supervisors also will review a Planning Commission denial regarding a 79-unit motel/76-unit senior citizen complex on 17th Avenue at East Cliff and Portola drives.

Estimates of recommended services charges will be made to supervisors June 7. The charges, according to Assistant County Counsel Dwight Herr, would vary depending on how much a property owner benefits from a particular road repair.

County Administrative Officer George Newell says county service area funds wouldn't be enough to cover the estimated \$22 million to \$25 million required to repair the county's roads, but would help to repair some of the damage from the last two years of torrential storms.

The state and federal government are expected to eventually reimburse the county for approximately 50 percent of the total cost.

The county is working to urge federal and state officials to not disqualify so many road repairs from the state/federal grant program and ultimately cover closer to 75 percent of the total cost.

But despite what the federal and state governments come up with, the county will have to front all the money for road repairs and then wait for reimbursement.

Actually, the county would be tacking on road repairs to an already-established county service area No. 9, which includes the entire unincorporated area and provides road-related services such as highway lighting.

Supervisors must go through many steps before the county service area for road repairs can be established, according to Herr. And citizens have a lot to say about it, with a procedure established for citizens to overturn the service area proposal.

If 50 percent or more of the registered voters in the unincorporated area protest at the June 21 public hearing, or if owners of half or more of the value of the land and improvements in the unincorporated area protest, then the county service area proposal automatically dies, according to Herr.

This protest can be presented either

orally or in writing at the hearing, Herr said.

But if this protest doesn't come about on June 21, then supervisors could adopt a resolution ordering road repair charges to be added to the county service area beginning July 1, 1983.

Supervisors also must adopt an ordinance providing the procedure to collect the charges on the tax roll. This proposed ordinance is on Tuesday's agenda for conceptual approval. Final approval would come at a later date, if such an ordinance isn't already in existence, Herr said.

They also would need to adopt a resolution establishing zones or subzones with services charges varying depending on how much property owner benefits from road repairs, Herr added.

Supervisors further would have to include the nature, extent and cost of the road work to be done in the Public Works Department budget for 1983-84.

In early July, the Public Works Department would need to file a list with the Board of Supervisors showing the parcels receiving road repair benefits and specifying the charges for each parcel, according to Herr.

The board would then need to set a hearing on this list within three weeks after they receive it from Public Works. After this hearing the board then would make any changes needed to the list and adopt it.

The list of parcels and charges must be submitted to the auditor on or before Aug. 10 to get the charges onto the next tax roll, Herr said.

Supervisors Tuesday also will consider establishing county service areas for road repairs on several private roads.

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Fred McPherson III

Publisher

Bruce McPherson

Editor

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