

Klein Makes Final Report To City

Unabridged

Outgoing City Manager Tells of SC's Progress

(Editor's note: This is the unabridged report made by outgoing City Manager Robert N. Klein to the city council and the citizens of Santa Cruz.)

By Robert N. Klein
City Manager of Santa Cruz

This report is a summation of my opinion on the condition of municipal facilities and services and a few recommendations which I believe have some significance in future planning.

Public Safety Services

Fire Department: This past year the Fire Department has achieved a Class III fire rating in the City of Santa Cruz, making a fire protection outstanding for this size city and showing substantial premium savings to residents of the city and business investments in this city.

The statistics and equipment are in excellent condition, and the men are well trained and of high caliber.

Police Department: Recently remodeled and reconstructed quarters for the Santa Cruz Police Department assure this department excellent facilities. Equipment for this department is likewise modern and in first class condition. The Chief of Police has recently undergone three and a half months of rigid training under the supervision of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

General Observation: I doubt that you will find in any city of this size a better caliber of manpower in police and fire services. I think the citizens of this community had a very good demonstration of their public safety service during one flood and one major flood threat in recent years. Civil defense and disaster protection has been organized fundamentally under the Assistant Chief of Police.

Police and fire services of this community are well organized, well trained and, in my opinion, model departments.

Sanitation Department: Six years ago only about 60 per cent of the citizens of this community used garbage service, and it is my vivid recollection that garbage was dumped in trash cans, on the streets, dumped in gutters, roadsides, buried in back yards, and in no way could our sanitation service be considered a "model" facility.

Following a vote of the people, universal garbage collection and a monthly trash collection was instituted as a municipal service. New equipment was purchased and the men were better paid. A cut and cover dump was established to prevent serious fire and sanitation hazards and today we

saw growth. The sewer line which formerly crossed the river was lowered to prevent any impediment in the stream flow in the San Lorenzo river. This coming budget year the supervisor of the treatment plant has been promoted and will supervise the system itself and will try to find new ways of preventing excessive infiltration into the system from storm water, which was part of a recommendation incorporated in a major engineering report and survey of the system made in 1954. The Council has authorized plans for a sewer line on the municipal wharf. This line should be constructed this fall with sewer department personnel and water department engineering supervision.

Streets (and Storm Drains): This department has been struggling with the problem of streets which were never properly laid out or surveyed or graded. Citizens of this community have inadvertently purchased homes on streets which they thought were improved streets, which later they found were unimproved streets and streets which were never properly brought to grade. Over a third of the city's 142 miles of street system is still basically without full improvements. In 1953, a fifteen man citizen's committee studied streets and storm drains and determined that the first program should be to try to create a master storm drain plan. This work is being attempted by the engineering department, and a new committee is being appointed by the mayor this year to try to effect the financing of storm drains prior to any program with street improvements.

Several years ago, the City Council established during budget session a policy known as the "curb and gutter policy," wherein owners facing the street pay for and install curb and gutter, and the city, after a complete block is installed, will install the

after office hours, on problems in connection with the building of this community.

Inspection Services: Two years ago, in order to effect a better service to the public and a better operated department, we combined all inspection services under one head, a registered electrical engineer, who is also chief of our electrical and communications departments. This department is now a combined inspection services department; inspectors are regional in their operation and intend to give the public a maximum service. This department is well operated, well supervised, and the fact that it has maintained up-to-date building, electrical, plumbing and other codes, has been considerable assistance in fire prevention and has also been a major assist in the fire department obtaining its Class III rating.

Electrical and Communication: This department is also headed by the same man that heads the Inspection Services Department. It is quite unusual, and quite fortunate, for the city and the citizens of Santa Cruz that we have a man of such high caliber and good training that we can use him in this fashion. The radio department of the city maintains services for outside agencies who pay separately for this service. The radio department also maintains several stations under several frequencies for utility channels, as well as emergency channels. With this system we have a disaster protection network. The electrical superintendent has also installed auxiliary power systems in the auditorium and police departments in order that the auditorium, fire and police departments will operate in the event of public power failure. In order to expedite communication between department heads and major services, the electrical superintendent has installed an inter-communication system between city departments. This is also used to relieve a well operated but, at times, overloaded central switchboard.

Street Lighting: Five years ago we started a regular program on a pay-as-you-go basis of replacing our old-fashioned major street electroliters. This budget year draws to a close a major portion of this program. Soquel avenue, Pacific avenue, Front street, at the close of this coming budget year, will have most of the electroliters completely replaced. Much of the underground cable in connection with this system has also been repaired or replaced. Under financial pressure in this year's budget, funds were deleted to actually complete this program. These funds should be incorporated next year to assure a complete installation on our prominent business streets.

Shop and Heavy Equipment Facilities: Six years ago we completely reorganized the corporation yard and shop facilities and shop stores. Passenger equipment and pick-ups that were in use were

river levee system. The plans for this park are being prepared by the same architectural firm which has been hired for Harvey West Park.

The Plaza municipal park in front of the Holy Cross church, library grounds, the parkway on Morrissey, and similar grounds are gradually being serviced with completely automatic sprinkler facilities which should eventually be a part of the entire park system in order to prevent unnecessary labor costs. These facilities are not ordinary automatic sprinklers which you have in your own home yard. These facilities are operated by valve control. A clock will automatically turn on or off at various times of the evening or early morning hours when people are not present and cannot be annoyed by sprinklers. It also can be adjusted for seasonal operation.

The recreation program, which ties in closely with the park program, is being operated in co-operation with the Santa Cruz Unified School District, and many of the personnel of the school department have ably assisted our recreation department. Several years ago, a woman supervisor was added and a woman's program was started. A permanent woman's supervisor should be hired this year to maintain this worthwhile part of the recreation program. A new director of parks and recreation has been retained and is doing a fine job. It should be said in passing that much of the credit for many of the improvements to our park and recreation service is due to the hard work of the former director of parks and recreation and the able assistant superintendent of parks.

Planning

Five years ago, the city of Santa Cruz established a planning department. Our first planning director was an experienced man who had been trained in the San Jose planning department. Since that time we have had three planning directors. Our present director is working hard in connection with programs to improve our zoning ordinance, and in cooperation with our urban renewal program, the planning director is in charge of the details of our off-street parking program and the overall planning of the area surrounding the small craft harbor. The planning department, for the protection of industry and adjacent homes, has created an exclusive industrial district on the west side with site supervision and architectural control. Some of the new innovations of this department have not always been beyond criticism, but the planning director is quite aware of this problem and is making every effort to create a program and check it with the public to forestall this type of criticism.

Two ordinance which should be the product of the planning department during the next year are being prepared:

(1) a trailer ordinance, which has been long in the making.

The City Clerk and Treasurer is actually Director of Finance of no further cash obligation on flood partment, is always under pressure, particularly with the many special funds, problems in connection with financing. This department is exceptionally well manned, well organized, well directed, and I think that the public will find that it can be proud of the financial condition of this city, which has one of the lowest bonded indebtednesses in the State of California. Despite statements to the contrary, the city has no further cash obligation on flood control off-street parking.

The auditorium, although not exactly staff department, is a facility operated for the citizens at a loss in order to provide major meeting facilities for occasions for the public and semi-public nature. The auditorium department provides office facilities for the Chamber of Commerce on a low cost basis, provides office space for the Craft Board, office space for several governmental departments, and provides meeting rooms for a number of public and semi-public meetings. The auditorium has been well maintained over the last few years, and although it is operated at a loss, it is considered an excellent public facility which can justify this loss. The upper front section of the auditorium could be utilized for additional office space as need arises.

Parking meter facilities are operated under the supervision of the City Clerk and Treasurer, and with the growth of our off-street parking lots this department this year is to be under a sub-supervisor or who also operates our multi-graph and reproduction facility. parking meter department, incidentally, has a record of low maintenance cost and does an excellent job of maintaining these "necessary evils" that we have on our city streets. I might say, as a basic recommendation, that because of the problems that lady shoppers have, it might be well to remove all hour meters from the city streets and wharf and replace them with a minimum 2 hour meter, other than the 24 minute meters which we have at special sites.

The water department is operated as a department of municipal government under a well trained registered civil engineer as director of the water department facilities. The water department has made a number of major improvements in the past few years, has a heavy construction force and at all times has tried to render a courteous and well attended service. Much of the new installations of the water department throughout our city system and a system which is adjacent on the fringe areas has assisted the fire department and the community in obtaining a Class III fire rating, and adequate commercial, industrial, and residential service. A major public work which confronts this community is the five million dollar revenue bond

city and county library system which operates library facilities for all facets of the county of Santa Cruz with the exception of the city of Watsonville. The city operates four libraries and 14 county branch libraries. This city and county library system is ably administered and supervised by a group of very professional ladies who are well trained librarians and extremely courteous and thoughtful in their dealings with the public. The library system has an addition in the past few years of a music library and the library board of trustees and the city and county librarian and my office have been working on plans for a new downtown headquarters for the city-county library system. In recent years, the county board of supervisors has cooperated with the city in the effort to complete and maintain this model library system.

The comments that have been made on city operation and city facilities have not mentioned our major projects — flood control and redevelopment.

The flood control project, after several years of many headaches in financing and other problems, is in this status: we own just about all of the property necessary for the completion of the San Lorenzo river flood control project, which includes Branciforte creek. Improvements are being constructed by an extremely able construction firm, and the city's interests are being followed very closely by the city engineer and the city manager's office. In connection with this, the Riverside avenue bridge within the project area is to be reconstructed as well as the Ocean street bridge over Branciforte creek, which will be constructed into a four-lane, divided bridge. There is a possibility that an additional fifth lane will be added to provide a service road for the frontage property between Soquel avenue and the bridge on the east side of the street. There will also be a modification of the Water street bridge over Branciforte creek, and as the citizens know, the Market street bridge over this creek was reconstructed several years ago. No funds are available for any other bridge work, although we have impounded seventeen thousand dollars for the reconstruction of a foot bridge over the river from the proposed county center to the new city park. I am no longer worried about the flood control project, and inasmuch as we have met our local cash share without bonding the public and with a saving of some eighty to ninety thousand dollars in interest on pay-as-you-go basis, I believe the public is obtaining an excellent project without excessive cost directly applied to the city of Santa Cruz.

The first redevelopment project under construction adjacent to this flood control project is the urban renewal plan and is intended to strengthen the downtown

construction next month. Lot No. 1 on the Front street side and Lot No. 3 between Walnut and Church should be under construction prior to October of this year. This major downtown parking project will be constructed with the funds provided from revenue bonds, and if anyone went downtown to shop last Saturday he would easily understand why we are building off-street parking facilities.

The Harbor project and Federal Beach Erosion projects are authorized by this Congress. It is the intention of our Port District to contract for final plans and specifications on the harbor this fiscal year. \$75,000 has been passed by the Senate for this purpose. The beach erosion project can be financed by one-third Federal grant, one-third State grant, and one-third must be voted by the public if we are to build this project.

The proposed University of California at Santa Cruz: Without much publicity or fanfare, the steering committee, under Chairman Gordon Sinclair, has been diligently pursuing this objective. A professional rendering has been prepared showing the perspective of the University buildings on the Cowell home ranch site in relation to the city, bay, etc. A large photograph of this was shown to the Regents at their last meeting in June. Arrangements are being made to show additional Regents this site and to discuss the land situation further with the Cowell Estate trustees.

All of the major public works, all the improvements to city facilities and the continuation of the plans and programs and hopes and aspirations of the city are in no respect a one man show for any department or any phase of city government. In each case, the hopes and aspirations of the city government in the interest of its citizens has been a team proposition. In many cases, much of this has been accomplished with the free gratis work of the able members of the city boards and commissions and the tireless efforts of the paid employees of the city under the leadership of the City Council. I have enjoyed for six years the association with some fine city employees and an able and conscientious group of councilmen. I will always value this association, and I will always appreciate the courtesy and friendship extended to me by the citizens of this community.

The lowest depth photograph in the ocean, which has been accepted as authentic by National Geographic Society cartographers, is the 35,640-foot Challenger Depth in the Mariana Trench of the Pacific.

Remarkable complaints from a well operated garbage and trash collection department. In an attempt to save financially, the sanitation department has experimented with contractors on paper and pasteboard boxes. Because of the unsatisfactory operation of this experiment, it times this service hasn't been its best; however, the superintendent of the department is very careful and conscientious, and I am sure that this part of the service will improve. As a whole, complaints would indicate that the Santa Cruz sanitation service is far superior to the average private or public collection in this state. For five of the last six years, his service has been operated at rates to the public well below the average in the state of California.

Public Works

The various departments involved with major public works have undergone the greatest pressure of any of our municipal facilities or services. In the past few years, the City of Santa Cruz has embarked in a number of major projects which have brought increased pressure to the staff of the engineering and other works departments.

Sewer: The sewage treatment plant and tunnel and outfall lines are now in first rate condition. In excess of one half million dollars has been spent to install a new ocean outfall which is 2000 feet out in 45 feet of water and has met all the tests of the State Department of Public Health. The tunnel leading from the treatment plant to the outfall line has been repaired; the transmission line leading through this tunnel to the treatment plant has been replaced with a larger line with a greater capacity; the outfall line leading in the reverse direction from the treatment plant to the mouth of the tunnel itself has been replaced and the capacity enlarged. Auxiliary equipment has been added to the treatment plant in order that the treatment plan will function in the event of power failure and this installation has been made to utilize the gas that was formerly wasted and which is a by-product of the treatment plant. The sludge which is also a by-product from the treatment plant is dried and taken to DeLaveaga park and ground and sacked for fertilizer for the use of our park system. The treatment plant is operated 24 hours a day, men are well trained and well instructed. The public is invited at any time and any hour of the day to inspect this facility. There have been other major improvements to our sewer system in the form of transmission line replacements, and following the flood of 1955, the main lines of the sewer system were completely cleaned and flushed. The sewer lines located in connection with the flood project have been for the most part replaced by larger lines in anticipation of neces-

placed under contract with private car dealers on a purchase-maintenance type agreement which has saved the city thousands of dollars in maintenance of equipment. The city equipment has been operated on an average of five and one-half cents a mile, well below the cost of operation of most cities' equipment. This equipment is all in new or semi-new and first class condition. This made the garage a specialty shop so the garage could spend its maximum time in maintaining heavy equipment for the sanitation, street, sewer, park, electrical and water departments. The fueling facility for passenger equipment was moved to the east side fire station in order that we would not interrupt the mechanic's service at the major garage facility. This operation has worked well, and is well supervised, much to the credit of the Santa Cruz fire department at the east side station. Several years ago we purchased the four acre piece of property on River street and Golf Club drive for an outdoor and eventually an indoor combination corporation yard facility and storage yard. One of my failures has been my own inability to sell the City Council on the current need for a new corporation yard, at least to the extent that financing should be arranged at an early date for this facility. This would enable the stores operation to be better coordinated, as well as the better use of facilities which are now very crowded in our present garage facility.

Our major city streets which are major arterials of traffic are financed basically through gas tax funds, and several miles of these streets have been reconstructed and major improvements accomplished. The weed program, as far as roadside weeds are concerned, has not been completely satisfactory, and the street superintendent again this year is trying a new formula for a deterrent and eliminator of roadside weeds. Some storm drain work at intersections and on certain streets has been completed. In the River street area, a major storm drain plan has been completed in cooperation with the Division of Highways in connection with the construction of the business district bypass; however, most of the storm drain work has been held up pending the approval of the voting public of a bond issue to finance the overall storm drain plan. It should be said at this point that many citizens have been misled with the statement that their sewers are overloaded. Our engineers report of 1954, prepared by two very able men, Fred Bowlus of Whittier, and Richard Pomeroy of Pasadena, would indicate, after much study and many hours of statistical calculation, that the sewer system is not basically overloaded, with the exception that the storm water infiltration is so heavy that the sewer system in this way becomes a system beyond its capacity and until such time as storm drains are installed, the sewer system will continue to malfunction during storm periods. Most sewer lines, including the Seabright line, do not have to be replaced, as long as the public approves the installation of a separate storm drain system. The street department is likewise a well manned and well supervised department, and in spite of many headaches has done an excellent job for this community.

Engineering

The Engineering Department has encountered the major brunt of all the moves made by the city in the last six years to improve its various facets of public works. The city engineer has had a hand in most of the improvements mentioned in this report and in the past two years, with the able assistance of the Assistant City Engineer, Bill Busby, this department has covered a great deal of ground in supervising the engineering of flood control, redevelopment, major streets and highways, major sewer improvements, etc. I think it stands to reason that with all of this work there will be some complaints and some criticism. I have discussed some of these problems with the city engineer and I think he is receptive during the next few years to make certain changes to forestall dissatisfaction. I think it is safe to say that no single department of city government has spent more time, both during office hours and

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Parks and Recreation

Not every community of this size has in excess of 600 acres of beautiful public park and playground facility. This community is fortunate in having its 564 acre DeLaveaga Park. For the past 6 years this park has been improved in many facets. New barbecue pits have been built, new tables installed, major road system repaired and in some cases replaced, restrooms reconstructed or added. At Seabright the old museum was torn down and installed in the Seabright Library and the park cleaned up for public use. Much to the credit of the generous Mr. Harvey West, and the work of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the city now owns the Harvey West Municipal Park, which was formerly 13.68 acres and is now approximately 33 acres. A master plan for the development of this facility is being prepared by a landscape architectural firm at the expense of Mr. West; a swimming pool, again with the help of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, is being constructed in the park this year. Through the assistance of very conscientious citizens, a Senior Citizen's Center has been constructed in Curtis Park on Market street and is a very well used facility. Westlake Park has been added and sprinklers are due to be installed in this park this summer, and the park finally graded and planted this fall. A new city park in the downtown area is being constructed in connection with the redevelopment project, and some planning should be done on this park this year, along with the planting of trees adjacent to the

adoption in September. (2) A street tree ordinance which has been much sought after by many citizens should be drawn up and prepared for adoption this fall, with the help of the park department and the assistance and advice of the planning commission.

The planning department is likewise working on a study of air pollution control laws and will come to the Council with a recommendation on this matter in the fall.

Staff Services: The general government and the water and library departments are assisted by general staff services. The purchasing agent, purchasing department, is operating as a well organized central purchasing system, although at times we appear to get in a rut, so to speak, in our purchasing habits, efforts are constantly made to circularize all available vendors and to advertise and seek the best possible price, product, and quality for work of the departments of this city government. The purchasing agent has done a splendid job in selling improvements from land acquired in connection with the flood control program.

before the public within the next eight month period or sooner. This is a proposal to impound some 4000 acre feet of water for the purpose of insuring the city and its growth an adequate supply of water. A modern water treatment plant is also under consideration and will also be submitted to the public for its approval. Our water rates have been low in comparison with other communities throughout the state, and it is likely that water rates will be increased to assist in the financing of the water development and in the construction of a treatment plant.

Municipal Wharf

Many aspects of the municipal wharf have been virtually reconstructed in the past half dozen years; new guard rails, piling replaced, new plank, parking provided, petroleum facilities rebuilt, buildings remodeled, and new buildings constructed. Two items on the calendar for next fall are the sewer line already mentioned and a revised parking and turnaround for the area in front of the General Fish building. A plan is already drawn on this change and can be tried following the busy season.

Library: The city operates a

district, to provide a downtown park and to literally provide a new face for our central area as well as to make the downtown area more attractive. This project should relieve our tax burden by increasing the assessed value of the downtown district. All local costs should be met by the State loan of \$129,000.

Our highway programs at the entrances to our city, the redevelopment project, and the flood control project and the off-street parking program have at times seriously inconvenienced and given some hardship to some citizens. Some citizens who have had little financial resources have been seriously inconvenienced. This is very unfortunate and has caused me considerable concern, but this is the price of reconstruction of facilities. Government has this constant problem, government has a choice, and the public has a choice of building new facilities at the expense of sometimes creating hardships for some of its citizens. This, of course, has been intended to be in the interest of a major part of our population.

The off-street parking project is well underway. Lot No. 4 is under construction; Lot No. 2 will be under construction this coming month; the Soquel avenue side of Lot No. 1 should be under

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Women's
Leather
Thongs

\$2⁹⁹



- Natural
- Black
- White

Sizes
4 to 9

shoe salon — main floor

Leask's