

Weather Report

Temperature, for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today — Maximum 61, minimum 35.

Monterey Bay Area — Overcast night and morning but clear afternoons through Saturday; little temperature change; gentle wind.

Santa Cruz

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107th Year—No. 21

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SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA ★ FRIDAY

Winter Storm De

1963 Grand Jury



Superior Court Judge Charles Franich impanelled the 1963 Santa Cruz county grand jury yesterday afternoon. The new jury members are, front row, Mrs. Lorette M. Wood, 309 Stanford avenue; John C. Allen, Watsonville; Foreman H. Verne Jones, Watsonville; Fred H. Nitta, Watsonville; Mrs. Marjorie Holgerson, Watsonville; Patricia J. Erbe, 100 La Cuesta drive; Keith Shaffer, 1220-41st avenue. Middle row, Floyd L. Younger, 303 Clubhouse drive, Rio del Mar; Eldon C. Mable, Watsonville; Theodore N. Toft, Gushee street, Felton; Alec George Atwood Jr., 1911 Bay street; Loretta M. Martinelli, Watsonville; Darrow Palmer, 21 Hollins drive, Pasatiempo. Back row, Thomas Lawson, Watsonville; Francis M. Harris, 122 Bradley drive; Joseph A. Grabill, Boulder Creek; Col. Roy C. Johnston, La Selva Beach; Earl N. Holm, 3202 Los Gatos highway, Scotts Valley; Sam Leask III, 1460 Escalona drive.

Officials Disagree With Recommendation To Eliminate County Counsel Office

Len Klempnauer

Abolishment of the Santa Cruz county counsel's office is recommended by the 1962 grand jury.

The jury wants the counsel's functions returned to the district attorney's office.

Supervisor Chairman Francis Silliman and District Attorney Richard Pease both took issue with this.

The recommendation is contained in the grand jury's final report, presented to Superior Court Judge Gilbert Perry yesterday afternoon.

County Counsel Bill Card this morning refused to comment generally upon the grand jury's recommendation. He said consolidation is a "policy matter" for the board of supervisors to resolve.

However, Card did comment on each of the grand jury's "reasons."

The office of county counsel was established by the board of supervisors in 1957 and its functions removed from the DA's duties.

The county counsel manages civil cases for the county. The DA handles criminal matters.

The grand jury's resolution stemmed from a study of the two county legal departments by the jury's governmental efficiency committee, chaired by Rene Rochex.

The jury points out the following reasons for consolidating the two offices' duties:

1. Operation of two legal offices results in waste of tax moneys.

2. Needless and uncoordinated duplication and overlapping efforts arise in the collection of moneys due the county.

3. A lack of enforcement of county ordinances result from a division of responsibility for ordinance enforcement.

4. The county counsel has failed to defend or represent the county in numerous legal actions brought against the county.

5. Legal opinions by the county counsel have been ambiguous and long-delayed.

6. The county could save money and yet be more efficient by transferring clerical help and deputy county counsels to the DA's office.

The grand jury requests its recommendation be accomplished by the end of the current fiscal year.

Said Card, "Tax moneys aren't wasted, and I can't think of any place where we duplicate the DA's office in collection of moneys."

"Enforcement of ordinances is not a primary function of this office; it's the DA's. As far as I'm aware, the county has been defended in every legal action."

Card said in many cases, legal

actions against the county fall under its contracted insurance program wherein the insurance company has its own attorneys to defend it.

"We defend most of the rest. The county really hasn't been sued much."

Card said opinions "come out as soon as the work of this office permits."

He said if there is a consolidation of the two offices, he couldn't see "any appreciable difference in the budget."

District Attorney Dick Pease echoed Card's statements.

He said he doesn't "agree" with the jury's recommendation because the "jobs are very dissimilar."

"They (county counsel) specialize in civil government cases and we in criminal matters."

Pease said the county is "saving money in the long run" with separation of the duties.

"I never would like to see the change back to the system we had before. I would have a devil of a time trying to pick up on the county counsel's duties," Pease stated.

Supervisors' Chairman Francis Silliman said he "couldn't disagree more" with the recommendation. "I have lived under both systems."

"The county counsel's office is even more important to the county than the county administrative officer."

Fleming In, Daly Out Of Council Race

