

Supervisors Endorse Summer Hostel Project

A summer hostel project was endorsed this morning by county supervisors, but the board held up action on the possibility of substituting its surplus commodities food program with food stamps.

The food stamp issue will be taken up at a public hearing July 11 at 4 p.m.

The hostel project is designed to serve travelers, especially bicyclists and touring youths. There are still some important questions to be answered before the program goes into effect, such as where the 60-bed hostel will be, but the county's administrative officer and counsel were instructed to prepare necessary documents to get it underway by July 1 if possible.

If recommendations of the Santa Cruz Hostel Society are followed, users of the hostel will be charged 75 cents a night

(possibly including a continental breakfast) and two nights will be the maximum stay.

Guests must be at least 18 years old unless they have notarized permission from their parents, and separate facilities for men and women will be arranged. The hostel will be open from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. and no alcoholic beverages, drugs, smoking or weapons will be allowed.

In endorsing the program, the board agreed to appropriate \$4,400 for hiring one director and five assistants, who will prepare an analysis of the program by Oct. 1. The board asked also that inquiries be made to the state for assistance in the project, since as Aptos Supervisor Ralph Sanson said, "The need for this is caused by out-of-county persons" coming to this county.

The question of food stamps vs. surplus commodities has been considered by the board since 1968, when an application was made to have the food stamp program in operation in this county. It wasn't until 1970 that the county was approved for the program, but the board of supervisors hasn't seen fit to make the switch from the surplus commodities (also referred to as donated foods) program for needy and elderly individuals and families.

Pajaro Supervisor Henry Mello took a slap at Project SCOUT for its method of telling recipients that the food-stamp approach is the best way to go and that it provides better food.

He said what is not mentioned is that under a food stamp program a cash outlay is required

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Board Backs Hostel Project

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— something that would place a burden especially on senior citizens — as opposed to no monetary requirement under the donated food plan.

Ray Ansell, social welfare director, said he had a sufficient appropriation in his 1972-73 budget to operate either program.

Chairman Phil Harry repeated a previous board action taken that a "dual program" should be set up in this county since it is apparent each program is beneficial to some segment of the community. The board passed that idea unanimously to be sent on to the state, which doesn't recognize such "dual programs."