

Place de Mer



Seascape



Plans for shore developments shown a part of Pajaro Dunes, developments.

Proposition 20 and Coastal plan slow development along the edge of Monterey County, some examples of which

California Coastal plan— ambitious, controversial

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Acquisition of thousands of acres for public use and wildlife protection in the Monterey Bay region is a major feature of the California Coastal Plan submitted to the state legislature.

The plan, a beautifully - produced document on sale at the regional coastal commission office in Santa Cruz for \$4.50, is the result of almost three years' effort by regional and state coastal bodies. The legislature is being asked to adopt the plan — which has already stirred up controversy and a proposal to ask California voters to reject it. Coastal commissioners drew up the plan after voters passed Proposition 20 — the coastal zone protection act — in 1972.

Although the plan urges public acquisition of coastal land along the entire California shoreline, some of the major purchases would be in Monterey County.

Creation of a so-called estuarine sanctuary and wildlife refuge at Elkhorn Slough "to protect rare and endangered species and to provide recreational opportunities" is a key feature of the plan. The coastal agency recommends that 2,500 acres around the slough be placed in public ownership. The "rare and endangered species" are the black rail and clapper rail, birds which gather along the edges of the slough.

Purchase of 640 to 2,800 acres at Pico Blanco at Big Sur is recommended, as is acquisition of an additional 20,000 acres adjacent to Los Padres National Forest.

Several smaller purchases are recommended along the Santa Cruz County coastline. These include 135 acres linking Manresa and Sunset state beaches, 13 acres within Sunset Beach, 70 acres at Manresa Beach, 60 acres at the upper yacht harbor in Santa Cruz, the 37-acre field at Lighthouse Point, some land near the mouth of the San Lorenzo River, open space areas in the City of Santa Cruz, one acre to provide better public beach access at Davenport Landing, an additional 11 acres at Natural Bridges and 65-70 acres of marshland plus space for public parking at Scott Creek, north of Davenport.

Preservation of agriculture is another key provision of the plan. Noting that coastal benchlands are important areas for growing brussels sprouts and artichokes, the plan urges protection of these crops while public access to the coast is provided.

Reclamation of waste water for irrigation and groundwater recharge is recommended for the Pajaro Valley.





A typical scene along the coast north of Santa Cruz

throughout the coastal zone, tight controls over oil production and shipment along the shoreline, increased public access to the beaches and restoration of "degraded" coastal areas.

Local government would be responsible for adopting coastal plan policies and for ensuring that policies of the document are carried out. Regional and state coastal commissions would remain in operation until these local plans are modified to meet these policies. Following that, a state agency would remain to which decisions made by local jurisdiction could be appealed.

Costs of implementing the plan would be high. Land acquisition alone could cost as much as \$200 million, according to estimates in the plan. Additional costs would be caused by increased park maintenance as more public beach areas are acquired.

The plan proposes to finance these expenditures from several sources, with a bond issue in 1976 as a key source of revenue. Federal grants, increased taxes on the petroleum industry and increased fees for boat owners and taxes on tourism are also suggested sources of money.



Plan calls for purchase of 60 acres by the state in upper Santa Cruz harbor; entrance to main harbor is shown above.



Elkhorn slough at low tide — the sea fills the channel twice a day; a sanctuary is proposed



day get close scrutiny. Above is one of the more tasteful coastal

spawned have already acted to of cliffs and shores of Santa Cruz are shown here.

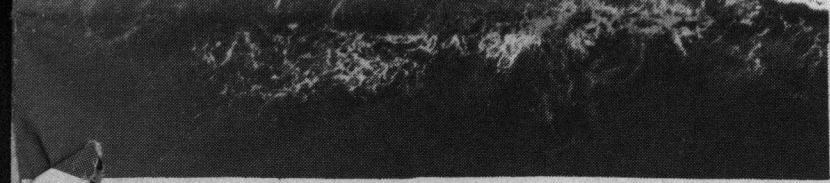


Sand Dollar Beach



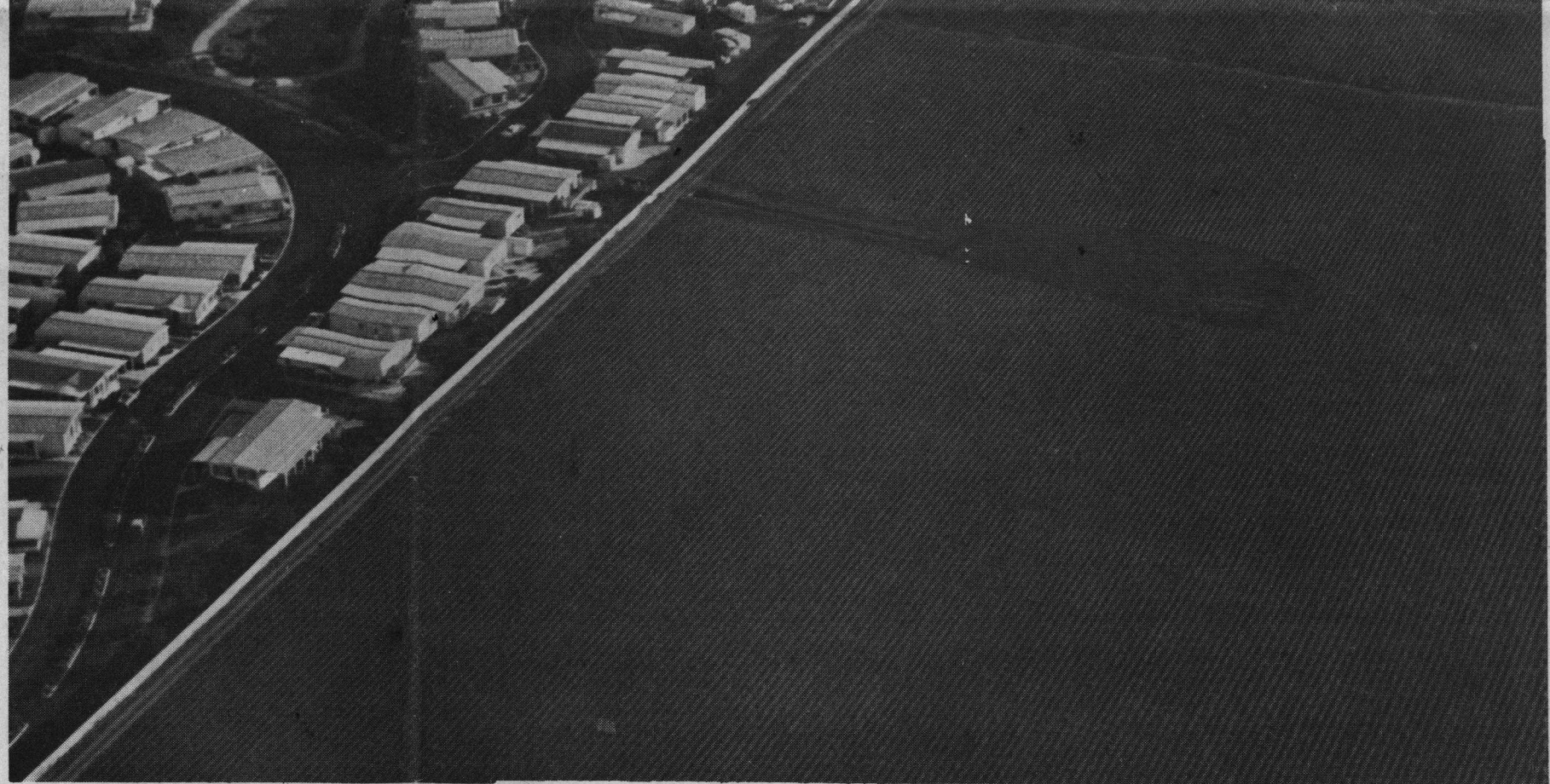
Beachfront at Rio del Mar



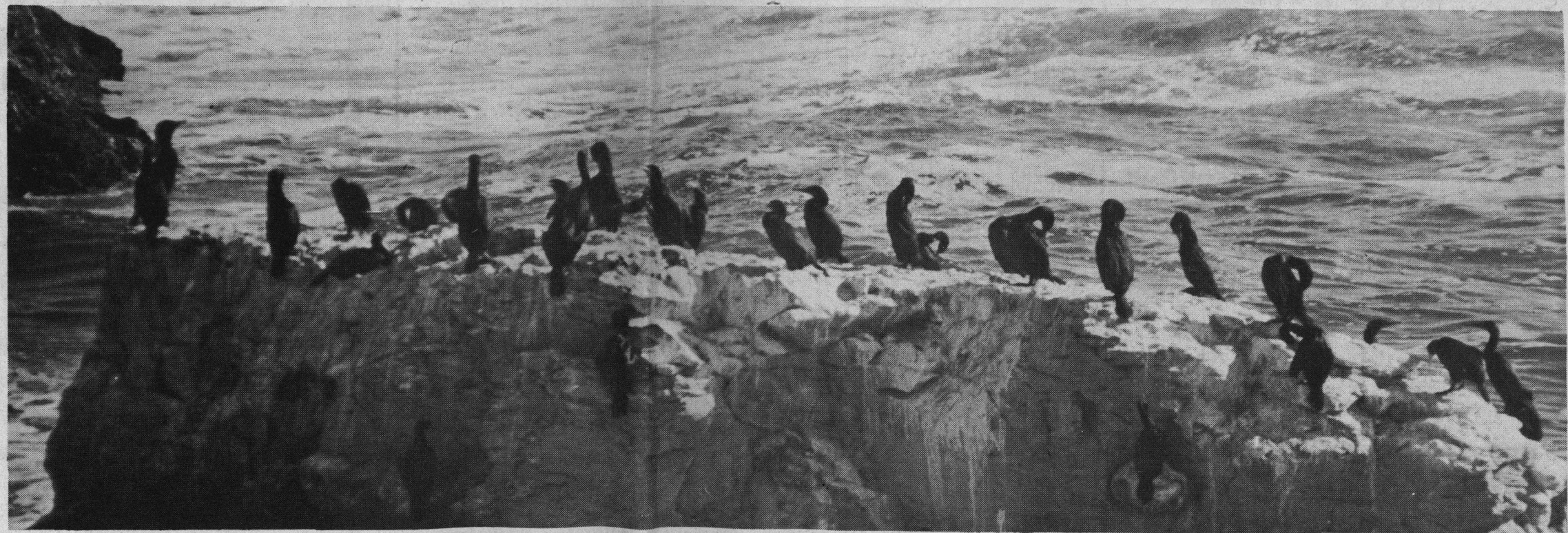


ses
e
land purchases near lighthouse point (above)

**Thousands
of acres here
proposed for
acquisition**



A mobile home park near Santa Cruz overlooks sea, presses against farmlands, presenting rather unlikely menage a trois



Zooming in on seabirds shown in page 14 photo — coastal plan would prevent encroachment on bird sanctuaries