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Beach Flats Cleanup Program Under Way

By BILL NEUBAUER
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The Santa Cruz City Council and the city Public Works Department were praised highly this morning by an officer of the Beach Flats Neighbors Association for helping to correct some of the sanitation problems in the area.

"The Public Works Department sent someone to take care of the sewer problem at Leibrandt Avenue and Raymond Street," said Francine Adkins on behalf of the citizens group. "They said this problem was not a city problem but they 'plunged' the pipe and disinfected the area. They said if there are more problems like this we should call them again.

"They have also been doing a fine job on the streets. They are even sweeping along the curbs, and this is really nice.

"Also, we have gotten a letter from the department asking if we would like to participate in a one-time cleanup of the entire area. We certainly will do so. They are going to put

special dumpsters here, I understand, so that all of us can help to get rid of trash.

"We really do want to thank the city for this. We are not carrying on a personal battle with the City Council or anyone else. We just want to see our area taken care of."

Another big concern of the citizens group - a proposed bridge over the San Lorenzo River from Ocean Street to Second Street - will be subject of a special Planning Commission hearing Aug. 30.

The hearing won't decide if the bridge should be built, but will be concerned with whether a feasibility study should be authorized.

The Beach Flats Neighbors oppose the bridge, saying it would destroy their neighborhood. Their battle against the bridge has been joined by other neighborhood groups. The Sentinel learned today.

The new group is called the Coalition Against the Ocean Street Bridge. In addition to the

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about great white shark," said Judge Carley, of the Steinhart staff.

also have been filed, including one from an uninvited New

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Beach Flats Neighbors, it includes the Downtown Neighbors Association, the Mission Hill Association, the River Flats (Barson) Neighbors Association, the Seabright Neighbors Association and the Westside Neighbors Association.

Adkins said also this morning that the Planning Department is meeting weekly with the Beach Flats Neighbors to help develop a neighborhood improvement plan.

"We are not going to do anything more about the bridge until the Aug. 30 meeting," Adkins said, "because it is more valuable to us now to concentrate on the plans for improving this area."

The City Council has designated the Beach Flats as a "target area" for improvement with the use of federal funds derived from the Housing and Community Development Act.

As reported previously by The Sentinel, a long range improvement plan is being developed for the area this fiscal year, and the council is allocating some \$225,000 per year for the next three years to implement it.

The Beach Flats Neighbors is hopeful that when the immediate sanitation problems are out of the way, such improvements as a park or playground may be arranged to meet the needs of some 165 children in the area who have no place to play but in the narrow, often traffic-clogged streets.

The Beach Flats Neighbors have the use of a little building for a meeting hall and could use donations of paint and paint brushes to help fix it up. To arrange these donations, call Tony Souza at 426-9695 in the evening or the Nero's Heroes restaurant at 423-1381 and leave a message for Adkins to call back.