

Cedar-Vine Plan Doesn't Bring Joy To Supervisors

9-23-63

County supervisors this morning appeared reluctant to support the proposed Cedar-Vine street connection in the city of Santa Cruz.

They delayed action on an inquiry about their stand until supervisors discuss the proposal "among ourselves," as suggested by Chairman Lewis Nelson.

The Bowman and William engineering firm said the county's projected share of the assessment district—to pay for the two-block street link—is \$20,262.

The engineering firm has broken done estimated assessments according to a "benefit" scheme for individual properties.

Supposedly the courthouse property at Cooper and Front streets is in the 50 per cent benefit zone. Estimated assessment there is \$19,534.

The Veterans Memorial building property on Front street, adjacent to the post office, is in the 25 per cent zone. Its assessment is estimated at \$728.

Supervisor Robert Burton indicated the proposal would be unfair to county taxpayers because the city of Santa Cruz would benefit by the project. On the other hand, taxpayers throughout the county would be paying the \$20,000-plus county assessment.

Burton said he would be for the project if he were a Santa Cruz

city councilman but isn't for it as a supervisor. (Burton is a former councilman.)

Lone indication of favor came from Vince Locatelli. He said one individual property owner in the district has an estimated assessment of \$18,000 and, "he's for it."

Locatelli said the county "can't do very much about it."

"The majority (property owners in district) are joining in. We'll have to follow their footsteps," Locatelli stated.

Nelson said he would be a "lot more for it" if the county intended to retain its present courthouse site. (Plans for a new courthouse complex in the San Lorenzo Park redevelopment project are well on their way toward development.)

Locatelli pointed out that the downtown area involved in the assessment district includes his San Lorenzo Valley supervisorial district, Russ McCallie's Seaside district, and Burton's Branciforte district.

McCallie did not comment on the proposal. Francis Silliman, Pajaro district supervisor, was absent.

Total estimated cost of the project is \$607,500. Besides the demolition cost, the total includes \$480,000 for property acquisition and \$27,500 for actual construction and incidental costs.