

Water Supply 1970-79

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# Another water annexation try

The Local Agency Formation Commission is scheduled to reconsider the Rio del Mar No. 282 annexation to the Soquel Creek County Water District when it meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the supervisor's chambers in the County Government Center.

Supervisor Ralph Sanson of Aptos has asked that the proposed annexation be reconsidered. It was approved by LAFCO in July, but in September, the commission withdrew its consent to the annexation.

The September action was taken at the request of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, the Aptos Terrace Improvement Association, and the Rio del Mar Improvement Association. The Rio del Mar group had taken the lead in the annexation movement.

The three groups asked LAFCO to rescind its resolution consenting to the annexation because the Soquel Creek County Water District was slow in approving the annexation. Its delay made it

impossible for residents of the areas to be annexed to put up a candidate for the Nov. 2 water district election. Probably, the delay would also have kept them from voting.

However, representatives of residents in some other parts of the proposed annexation area have expressed unhappiness with the failure of the annexation to go through.

The La Selva Beach Improvement Association has informed the water district it is still in favor of the annexation.

Residents of the Park Wilshire and Vienna Woods subdivisions have petitioned LAFCO for consent to annex their area to the water district.

A petition signed by five percent of the property-owners in this area for the annexation will be considered Wednesday by LAFCO.

The Park Wilshire-Vienna Woods residents are anxious for the annexation because they plan to form an assessment district to bring Soquel Creek district water to their area.

The homeowners there have been plagued with water problems. They are at present receiving water from the district through a temporary connection. However, in order to receive permanent service, they will have to annex to the water district.

The La Selva Beach and Park Wilshire-Vienna Woods areas were part of the proposed Rio del Mar No. 282 annexation. It also included Aptos, Aptos Terrace, Rio del Mar, and Seacliff. The annexation would have trebled the size of the water district by including all of the areas presently served.

Executive Director E. R. Hanna of LAFCO has recommended approval of the "Park-Vienna No. 294 Annexation," as it is called, on condition that the annexation shall become final

only if, and when, the assessment district is formed.

This is to make sure that the residents of the annexed area get water, he said.

"It has happened in the past, with two sewer districts, that homeowners found themselves paying taxes to the district but not getting any service," Hanna said.

The county counsel has been asked to rule as to whether or not LAFCO can reopen the matter of the Rio del Mar No. 282 annexation.

The water district board of directors was expected to approve the annexation August 2 and set the date for a public hearing on the issue. However, directors instead made plans for an Aug. 22 tour of boundaries of the proposed annexation area, without acting on the annexation.