

Scotts Valley Ponders Sky Park Action

Should the City of Santa Cruz be made to compensate land owners in Scotts Valley whose property is restricted in use because of Sky Park Airport, located on land owned by Santa Cruz?

The Scotts Valley City Council is deliberating if it should pursue avenues to force the bayside city and the operator of the airport to compensate land owners located adjacent to the airport located in the "downtown" sector of Scotts Valley.

Scotts Valley councilmen Thursday looked over four proposals dealing with Sky Park, but put over any actions while seeking more information.

On Dec. 16, a joint meeting of the Scotts Valley City Council and Planning Commission discussed four items:

- The City of Santa Cruz and the airport operator shall compensate adjacent land owners for losses experienced due to land use restrictions resulting from the airport.

- PG&E lines along Mt. Hermon Road in areas within the "clear zone" shall be undergrounded.

- The fence at the end of the runway adjacent to Mt. Hermon Road shall be improved to provide a more suitable barrier.

- Consideration shall be

made for the removal of Doxel Gas and Van Gas, which are both located in the "clear zone."

The council has recommended to the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission that Sky Park Airport not be expanded and the current level of 65 planes and 60,000 annual aircraft operations be maintained.

SV City Administrator Duane Smith said Friday that the undergrounding of lines and the work on the fence is being cooperatively worked on between the City of Scotts Valley and the airport operator Jim Dahm.

SV City Planner Dennis

Chiniaeff informed the council last week that earlier attempts to get the City of Santa Cruz as a participant in undergrounding the lines had failed because the city had spent its funds on other undergrounding projects.

He noted, however, "With the latest concerns over the future of Sky Park there could possibly be a change in attitude by the City of Santa Cruz. Staff has been in contact with PG&E and they still look favorably toward undergrounding."

"The costs have risen roughly 10 per cent (since 1975) to about \$90,000 to \$100,000.

"Fifty per cent funding is available from the State Department of Transportation

(and) Pacific Telephone has indicated a new line from Felton to Scotts Valley is projected to be installed in the near future so the joint use of trenching could possibly be used," the planner said.

He added, "The issue of Doxel-Van Gas while important is really long range relative to the undergrounding of the utility lines."

The planner and Smith agreed that the council should also discuss the long-range plans the city will push for concerning the airport and it has been pointed out that such plans could include removal of the airport from the center of town.

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