

University Site

2-21-60
Base History

Legislators Urge Regents To Acquire Cowell Ranch

Purchase of the Cowell ranch site in Santa Cruz for a proposed University of California campus would save the taxpayers of California "millions of dollars," Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge and State Senator Don Grunsky told members of the University of California's Board of Regents Friday.

Both Grunsky and Coolidge made personal appearances before the regents at the meeting in Riverside to stress the value of the Cowell site in Santa Cruz for a university campus.

Grunsky declared the more than 1300 acres in the Cowell ranch were under single ownership and could be purchased at a "reasonable" price without use of condemnation compared with 1000 acres and 79 property owners in the Almaden site in Santa Clara county.

Coolidge said the Cowell site offered many advantages over the Almaden property and that future expansion would be far less expensive in the Santa Cruz area than in the Almaden region.

Both legislators said they believed the Cowell site could be obtained for somewhat more than \$1 million while they maintained that property in the Almaden area could cost the university between \$7000 and \$10,000 an acre or \$7 million or more for the 1000 acre site.

Grunsky said the Cowell site also offers the university far greater opportunity for expansion than the Almaden site and is still within easy commuting distance for students in the south central coastal region.

Coolidge called the attention of the regents to recent proposed property acquisitions for the university to expand existing campuses which would cost the state more than \$100,000 an acre, urging that the purchase of the Cowell property would eliminate such costly additional developments.

"There are more than 7000 acres in the Cowell ranch which would provide sufficient space for any development and which could be made available to the university at a 'most reasonable' price," Coolidge said, "emphasizing that the difference in price between the Almaden and the Cowell properties would be gift of millions of dollars to the state."

President Donald McLaughlin of the board of regents told the local legislators that the material presented would be taken under consideration by the board.

In December the regents said that they would begin preliminary negotiations for the Almaden site in Santa Clara county as the preferred site in the south central coastal region. They said, however, that other sites in Santa Clara county, and particularly, the Cowell site in Santa Cruz county would re-

main under consideration before a final decision.

Last week two legislative subcommittees delayed action on a request for \$3 million for planning and site option funds.

Both Grunsky and Coolidge maintain that the Cowell site meets all the criteria for the university site and the vast difference in cost is preferable to the slightly longer distance the site is from the centers of population.

The legislators declared that not only does the Cowell site allow for a well planned university community without competing with congestion, but that "the campus site, itself, would be the most beautiful campus in California."

Heart Fund Drive Under Way Today

Heart Fund volunteers today will begin calling at homes in Santa Cruz, Live Oak, Capitola, Soquel and Aptos.

Solicitations will continue throughout the week with the windup of the campaign to be next Sunday. Mrs. Charles Levine, county chairman for the IOOF Rebekah sparked drive, reported that in San Lorenzo valley, Scott valley, Rio del Mar and many rural areas the campaign is being conducted through the mails.

She explained that Heart Fund day contributions make possible the Heart association's assault on the nation's leading cause of death.

"More than \$40 million Heart Fund have been channeled into research since 1948," she said. This investment in scientific study already has saved and prolonged the lives of thousands of cardiacs. In addition, medical scientists have provided important new knowledge covering the prevention of rheumatic fever, control of most cases of high blood pressure, the surgical repair of heart valves, and the development of heart-lung machines."

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