

## District employees want union

A unionization effort by employees of the Soquel Creek County Water District led the board of directors Monday to hire a private personnel consultant.

The board employed Charles Sheehan, former Santa Cruz County personnel director, to advise it whether or not Plumbers, Steamfitters and Refrigeration Union, Local 365, AFL-CIO, should be recognized as representing the district's 10 field employees.

He is supposed to check into "the actual degree of representation of field employees" by the union and to advise the board "regarding its relationship with agencies claiming to represent district employees."

Public agencies are required under the Milius-Miles-Brown Act to engage in collective bargaining with bona fide employee groups.

Fred Rule, business manager for the plumbers union, has notified the board that his union represents the district field employees. He presented the board with copies of forms signed by 10 district employees. Rule asked that his union be recognized as bargaining agent for the field employees.

District Manager Robert Johnson said Sheehan will arrange an election to select a collective bargaining agent with the union and the State Labor Relations Board.

Johnson said he recommended retaining a personnel expert "because I am not an expert in personnel matters."

The board adjourned into executive session to discuss the hiring of Sheehan and the union's recognition request. Attorney Robert Bosso said he thought the closed session would be in the best interests of the district.

Johnson said no outsiders were present anyhow, but the closed meeting meant that the discussion did not appear in the minutes.

In other matters, the water district board:

—Accepted a low bid of \$11,961 for relocation of district facilities at the Mar Monte interchange project, Phase 1, in La Selva Beach. R. G. Pettis Co. of Saratoga was low bidder. Work is scheduled to start in about 45 days.

—Delayed for another two weeks, until its next meeting, final approval of an agreement to accept new water facilities in the Park Wilshire-Vienna Woods area. The county has received a low bid of \$67,767 for the project from Granite Construction Co. but cannot award the contract until the Soquel Creek board agrees to accept the facilities when they are finished. The water board wanted some points clarified in the contract.

—Approved a contract with Park Avenue By-the-Sea in

Capitola for installation of water facilities. The project is being developed by Osterlund Enterprises.

—Informed Penaat and Penaat, a law firm that is suing several thousand "John Does" for polluting the San Lorenzo River, that the Soquel District isn't polluting the San Lorenzo

with its Glenwood Dam project, years according to present as charged. Glenwood Dam, projections, is in the Soquel Creek watershed. which won't be built for at least 10