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La Selvas want courts, but not if taxes go up

La Selva Beach residents Tuesday said they would like to have public tennis courts in their community, but would rather not pay higher taxes for them.

In an informal poll taken in conjunction with the special district elections, residents voting in the La Selva clubhouse were asked to mark ballots indicating their feelings about tennis courts.

The results, disclosed later at a meeting of La Selva Beach Recreation District directors, were 116 in favor of tennis courts and 35 against.

However, when asked if they would support increases in the recreation district tax rate of five cents or 10 cents, or would support no increase at all, 64 said they wanted no increase, 45 were willing to go five cents, and only 10 approved of a 10-cent hike.

Richard Struck of the recreation district board said standard tennis courts cost about \$12,000 apiece and the land for project, several lots off Florido Ave. behind the clubhouse, would probably run about \$15,000 — bringing the total cost for two courts to

nearly \$40,000.

Struck said the district board would be looking at a number of ways to pay for the courts, including revenue sharing funds, state bond money for parks, county park dedication fees required from subdividers, and whatever other possibilities exist through the county parks department.

He also said the loan the district took out a number of years ago to build the La Selva Beach library will be paid up in 1978, and that the possibility of extending that loan would be explored.

As for raising taxes despite the preferences expressed in the poll, Struck noted the district is well below its legal limit of 60 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (it reduced the tax rate by 19 cents this year), but said he feels the board has an obligation not to take advantage of that fact.

Struck also suggested that if the board is willing to go for an asphalt or similar surface for the courts, rather than the more expensive composition surface, considerable money could be saved.

"That's what I would favor," Struck said. "I'm more interested in that kind of thing, in having the kids learn the skill rather than playing tournament tennis. When they're ready for that, they can go somewhere else—to Cabrillo or Aptos high school."

Also, he said, the harder surface could be used for purposes other than tennis, for community events such as folk dancing or the like. "And if a kid gets on there (a hard surface) with a skateboard, we won't have to sweat it, either."

Another issue on the district's poll ballot was the use of a parcel of land it owns at the Place de Mer subdivision. Residents were asked to mark if they would prefer to have the land used for a "low profile...grassy" area, or as a play area for the community.

A total of 84 persons went for "low profile... grassy," and 47 for a community play area. However, Struck said, the directors decided in retrospect that the wording for this issue was confusing, and they asked members of the La Selva Beach Improvement Association to take the question up at a meeting soon.