

Rio Assn. planning anti-store campaign

Leaders of the Rio del Mar Improvement Assn. are mounting a massive public opinion campaign to block conversion of the Rio del Mar ARCO station to an AM-PM convenience store.

The Santa Cruz County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the conversion Wednesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' chambers, Room 525 of the County Governmental Center.

Petitions with 878 signatures opposing the conversion were turned in to the county Planning Department Monday, and association directors say they will have several hundred more signatures to turn in to the Planning Commission July 21.

Association president Bob Curtiss is also suggesting that the association ask as many of its 799 members as possible to attend the commission meeting.

The service station conversion was approved last month by the county Zoning Administrator, but that was appealed by Supervisor Robley Levy. The Planning Commission was then instructed by the Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing on the issue.

Directors are also pressing Mrs. Levy and county parks director Larry Norris to do something about the trash buildup on Hidden Beach, the privately

owned, semi-public beach below the Aptos sewage pumping station.

Nicki Pecchenino, Mrs. Levy's administrative assistant, told the directors that the county sanitation district can't legally clean up the beach around the pump station, but it is possible for the county parks department to do so.

Trash pickup, she said, probably won't start until late summer or after the Planning Commission approves parks department plans to clean up the Hidden Beach foot path from Cliff Drive to the beach.

The board also accepted a nominating committee report recommending three new directors for the 1982-83 board: Harry C. Federico, 617 Bayview Drive, an insurance broker and 10-year Rio del Mar resident; Betty Sparks, 532 Vista del Mar Drive; and George Truckell, 624 Bayview Drive. They would succeed retiring directors Frank O'Connell, John Cooper, and Mel Deerwester.

Nominated for new terms on the board were association treasurer Burt Kendall and director Marilyn Gordon Brenner.

Additional candidates can be nominated through a petition process through the middle of September. Ballots will be mailed out to association members on Sept. 21.