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Lt. Col. Frank C. Boerger, San Francisco district engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, toured the proposed \$2-million Santa Cruz small craft harbor expansion area today. With Col. Boerger, in uniform, were, from left: James B. Leask, port district chairman; George P. Reilly, engineering chief with the corps office; L. M. Peterson, port director; Col. Boerger; Eugene M. Huggins, technical liaison chief, and Paul L. Vredenburg, construction operations chief, both of the corps office.

# Army Engineer Visits Harbor

By John Elliott  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Plans submitted for the beautification of flood control levee banks in downtown Santa Cruz are "a wonderful compromise between hydraulic capacity and good looks," according to Lt. Col. Frank C. Boerger, district engineer for the San Francisco district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Boerger, who became district engineer in July, toured Santa Cruz today on his first official visit. In addition to examining the levee banks he visited the proposed \$2-million small craft harbor expansion area.

Col. Boerger said he is all for beautification of the levee banks between the Soquel and Water street bridges "as long as it doesn't interfere with the efficiency of the levee."

He indicated he is definitely not opposed to the program, saying "there are lots of things that can be done to make them

(the banks) less objectionable to the people who look at them."

He explained the question of flood control beautification projects has "created a lot of controversy" in the past, but the corps is aware of what Santa Cruz redevelopment agency and other city officials are seeking here and will make a decision on what to allow in the not too distant future.

He said the Santa Cruz request is "not a pilot project, but it contains some novel ideas."

The agency is spearheading an attempt to secure corps approval of construction plans for the levee banks. The cost of planting trees and ground-cover, estimated at \$100,000, would be paid by the agency through available credits.

The corps has traditionally been hesitant about approving such plans, chiefly to prevent interference with the amount of water the levee system can handle during peak periods.

Also, said Col. Boerger today, finances were more of a consideration in the past. When funds were severely limited, he said, officials were concerned only with functional aspects of a project. Now, with today's affluent society, more attention can be paid to beautification schemes such as that advocated for Santa Cruz.

Col. Boerger, who arrived in Santa Cruz Monday evening and returned to San Francisco this afternoon, lunched today with agency representatives.

He was accompanied on his tour of the small craft harbor by James B. Leask, port district chairman, and L. M. Peterson, port director. He described the existing harbor as a "wonderful facility."

Traveling with him from San Francisco were George P. Reilly, chief of the engineering division; Paul L. Vredenburg, chief of the construction operations division; and Eugene M. Huggins, chief of the technical liaison office.