

# Cedar-Vine Suit Filed Against City

Attorney Frank Murphy Sr. has charged the city with secrecy and collusion in a Superior Court suit filed Friday in an effort to set aside \$81,000 in disputed assessments on the Cedar-Vine project.

The suit names the City of Santa Cruz and the individual members of the city council as defendants. The suit is brought in behalf of owners of 24 parcels of property representing the \$81,000 in assessments.

The suit charges that Samuel Leask, now mayor of the city, along with project engineer Tom Polk Williams and "certain property owners and other persons unknown, fraudulently combined together for the purpose of promoting a district . . . to compel the City of Santa Cruz to purchase certain obsolete buildings and lands at a substantial profit to the owners . . . and to levy assessments upon numerous owners of lands . . . which . . . had no frontage on said im-

provement and would receive no benefit therefrom."

The suit further charges that Williams was secretly employed to prepare maps, diagrams and assessments and the law firm of Wilson, Harzfeld, Jones and Lynch was secretly employed to prepare the necessary petitions.

Murphy also declares there were a number of secret meetings of councilmen and other city officials held during 1964 in order to obtain preliminary approval from the city.

The suit charges that the April 11 and 14 hearings on the disputed assessments were not hearings at all, that the councilmen had predetermined to vote against the protestants.

Murphy asks that the city be enjoined from levying assessments or reassessments against the plaintiffs until further order.

A date for a court hearing on the suit is scheduled to be set this week.