

Aptos Sewer Bonds Given Green Light By Voters

Voters in the Aptos sanitation district signalled for the first phase of construction to begin by mid-February by passing the \$1,605,000 sewer bond issue yesterday.

The necessary two-thirds majority "yes" vote was squeezed out by 23 votes. Of a 597 total vote, 421 balloted "yes," with 176 voting "no."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Lewis Nelson, representative of the Soquel district, reported this morning that engineering plans are so designed that the initial phase of construction can be under way by mid-February.

Contained in this phase will be treatment plant, ocean outfall line and collection system.

Each of the three special precincts voted for the project. Precinct C (Seacliff cafe) recorded 199 "yes," and 80 "no" votes. A total of 195 "yes" and 84 "no" votes came from precinct B (Aptos-Rio del Mar nursery school). Each precinct had a total of 279 voters.

With 39 voters, precinct A (American Legion building) recorded 27 "yes" votes compared to 12 "no."

There were 12 absentee ballots. County Clerk Tom Kelley reported that the board of supervisors will canvass the votes Monday and open all the absentee ballots which have been turned in.

Last January a bond measure for the same sewer system went down by 87 votes. Out of a total 648 ballots cast, 332 were favorable, with 291 against the bond issue. Twenty-five absentee ballots were turned in.

"I am certainly happy that the bond issue has passed," Nelson declared. "The success for the election should be credited to the steering committee."

Chairmen of the "Citizens For

Sewers" committee are: James McKenzie, general chairman; Harry Rasmussen, Sea Cliff; Harry Lyon, Rio del Mar, and Martin Rickard, Aptos.

Features of the system are trunk lines throughout the district and the construction of a treatment plant in Busch Gulch at the railroad trestle. Also included will be collection lines and an outfall sewer that extends 1000 feet into the ocean.

An allocation of \$169,620 from the federal government has been made to aid in financing the treatment plant, outfall sewer, part of the beach interceptor sewers and part of the lift stations. No grant can be obtained for collector sewers.

Engineer Dick Stockman of the Wilsey and Ham engineer firm has reported that before the federal grant can be obtained, the district must finance the project and submit final plans, specifications, estimates of cost, proof of ownership of plant site, and a final application.

The deadline for a fully processed application is next March. Money would then be available in partial payments, according to Stockman.

The state division of beaches and parks has indicated a willingness to contribute \$38,000.

A federal non-interest bearing loan amount to \$30,000 has been used by the district for part of the engineering. This money must be repaid from the bond money.

Nelson explained that the cost for the sewer system has jumped approximately 5 per cent—since the last bond issue. One of the main reasons for the bond issue being \$1 million higher than last January is that more of the cost is written into the bond.

The January election called for more financing through special assessment districts.