

EXPECT TRANSACTION IN ESCROW THIS WEEK

According to a letter received by the supervisors from the department of natural resources, division of beaches and parks, the Cowell property to be turned over to the state for a public park will go into escrow this week.

The letter was a copy of one sent to E. H. Connick, vice president and general manager of the Henry Cowell Lime and Cement company in San Francisco, from E. E. Powell, land planning and acquisition supervisor of the division.

More than 1000 acres extending roughly from the northern border of Paradise Park to the County Big Trees park are being given to the state by Samuel Cowell, son of Henry Cowell, founder of the cement company.

The property, which it is believed will have an assessed value of several million dollars, will be credited toward the county's matching funds for acquisition of more private lands for public use.

Also, as part of the agreement between the county and the Cowell family, the county will turn over to the state at the same time, the County Big Trees park, adjacent to the Cowell gift.

Appraised value of this, too, will be credited to the county's account for matching funds.

Powell said in his letter to Connick that several days ago a suggested draft of deed was transmitted to the state department of finance to effect the transfer of the property from the Cowell family to the state.

Outlined in the draft deed, he said, were the two conditions regarding the park, i.e., that the park be named the Henry Cowell park and that the area be maintained for park purposes and never sold.

"We have urged the department of finance to expedite the processing of this instrument so that we may conclude the negotiations," Powell wrote. "We are assured it is on the way through and should arrive back to us momentarily. Upon receipt of the proposed deed . . . we will then be ready to go into escrow."

Powell said that he had investigated the title report and it should be ready in a few days. He stated they had assigned cruisers and appraisers to the project to determine the value which will be credited to Santa Cruz county.

He added that he had met with Supervisor Frank Clement and Fred Dickinson of the Big Trees park committee and urged them to have the deed to the county park ready to go into escrow concurrently with that of the Cowell deed the latter part of this week.

H. O. Heiner, president of the Santa Cruz County Land Title company, said today that he completed the title search on the Cowell property yesterday and mailed it to the state division.

What has been done as far as the county deed was not known today as County Surveyor Arnold Baldwin was out of town.

In other actions supervisors:

Read and filed the report of the county hospital, extra, recurrent and temporary help from the personnel officer and a report from the health department regarding TB cases.

Filed a notice from the tax collector of his intention to sell tax deeded property which included four parcels in the Lompico tract, two in the Ben Lomond Springs tract and one in the Redwood Park subdivision.

Approved an agreement between the county and Wesley R. Goddard to connect to the Twin Lakes sanitation district at a cost of \$27.50.

Referred to the personnel officer a request from the assessor to allow a leave of absence for Verel Van Gorder until September 1.

Referred to the road commissioner a recommendation from the county planning commission to daylight a portion of Spreckels drive, on a state-owned right of way and a 90 degree right turn. Supervisor Frank Clement suggested that the road commissioner go over the situation with the state maintenance supervisor to see if the state was willing to do something about the situation. In the meantime, the commission's recommendation for the installation of a stop sign was ignored by the board.

Also referred to the road commissioner a communication from Peter B. Hitchcock on Western avenue in Brookdale, asking that something be done about the surface water draining onto his land.

Filed a certificate from the state confirming the annexation of the county hospital area to the city of Santa Cruz.

Filed a communication from the state controller regarding auditing the books of the municipal courts.

Granted Matt Mello, agricultural commissioner, permission to attend a conference in San Francisco Friday.

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Approved an action to abandon
portion of a county right-of-way
in the Old Soquel-San Jose road.

Were told by District Attorney
ne D. Borina that all ambulance
contracts and insurance policies
were in and accounted for.

Told a resident on 32nd avenue
that the road commissioner would
investigate what she claimed was
change of grade in the road in
front of her property, brought
about by the contractors who laid
the pipes for the East Cliff sewer
line. She stated that now all the
water will wash onto the property
owned by her family.

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