

Parks + Beaches -

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

Wednesday, August 14, 1968

Page 9

8-14-68

## Proposed Big Basin Land Addition Gets Cool Reception From Board

By Wallace Wood  
Sentinel Staff Writer

No final decision was made, but a push to have the state buy more land to add to Big Basin State Park got a decidedly chilly response from county supervisors yesterday.

A request for the board's blessing on the state plan came from the county parks and recreation commission. The commission is backing a Sierra Club program to add a large section of the Waddell Creek area to the park.

Supervisor Tom Black quickly suggested holding over any action on the request until Stephen Wyckoff makes a presentation for the Sierra Club on September 10.

Wyckoff already has appeared before supervisors to promote the park addition, but put off his formal presentation to coincide with a nationwide promotional campaign by the Sierra Club set for September.

Black couldn't restrain himself, even though he meant to hold his comments. "I'm totally against the state getting more

property," he said. "They just come in, acquire it, and then don't develop it, use it, lease it, or do a thing with it. And it's off the tax rolls. I can't support this."

"For a fellow who wasn't going to say anything, you did pretty good," chuckled Supervisor Robert Burton.

Supervisor Vincent Locatelli also seemed unfriendly to the idea. He commented that two of the parcels proposed to be taken belong to his family.

McCallie noted the county board has opposed state park purchase in the past principally because of tax losses.

But county-supported legislation to provide "in lieu" taxes

for the land repeatedly has failed to pass in the legislature, he pointed out.

Jerry Hughes, new county parks and recreation director, told the board the parks commission would like to try again on the "in lieu" tax program. In fact, an "in lieu" tax recommendation was part of the package of recommendations including the purchase of new Big Basin land.

Some of the problems legislation has faced in the past are that the state parks people opposed taking "in lieu" money from their budgets, and that facts and figures the parks department gathered showed most counties lost no money on the parks, a commission letter pointed out.

"That may be true in other counties, but not in Santa Cruz. We have an enormous number of visitors, far more than the proportion of population," McCallie said.

McCallie then sighed and agreed the county might try again.

However, Don Wilson of the governmental efficiency citizens committee said his group and the county administrative office are dealing with the same problem. He suggested sending the commission letter to the CAO for a recommendation.

Supervisors agreed, and referred the matter to the CAO for inclusion as part of his study.