

Plan to move house for inn draws fire from supervisor

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Walt Symons took issue with the county's rules for notifying neighbors about development applications yesterday after he learned about plans for a bed-and-breakfast inn on San Andreas Road.

Symons charged that it was an act of "capriciousness, arrogance, lack of attention or (lack of) concern" by county planning staffers in approving the bed-and-breakfast plan without notifying many who might be interested in the project.

In February, two months after Symons took office, the county zoning administrator approved a plan to move the Thurwachter House from Beach Road in Watsonville to 1254 San Andreas Road, near the Sand Dollar Beach development in La Selva Beach.

The county sends out notification of development applications to neighbors within 300 feet, but that would only mean one

neighbor in this case, Symons said. He indicated the county should have notified more people, including the homeowners' association at Sand Dollar Beach.

"There won't be a single person (in the area) who will support this," Symons said.

The issue came to supervisors' attention when they routinely removed the historical designation on the property the house is being moved from. The application to move the house didn't come to supervisors because it didn't require a zoning change.

Planning staff members Steve Matarazzo and Joan Brady said the staff followed standard procedure in processing the application. Brady said after the meeting that she forgot to mention that a minimum of 10 neighbors are notified of development applications, even if they're beyond 300 feet. Notices are also placed on telephone polls in the area, although it's not legally required.

Matarazzo said legal notices were placed in both daily newspapers in the county, when only one is required. The Planning Department also has a policy of notifying supervisors about pending applications in their district. There is no documentation one way or the other to show if this was done on the Thurwachter House.

Symons said he wanted the staff to use some selective judgment on notifying the community about such projects, but Supervisor Gary Patton disagreed.

The county staff, Patton said, follows policies set down by supervisors. If staff members had taken it upon themselves to notify more people, "the applicant would have gone crazy," Patton said.

"Not a day goes by," Symons said, that he doesn't hear a challenge of a judgment call by a county employee.

Supervisor Jan Beautz said she would support a broader notification process, but no specific



Kurt Ellison

The Thurwachter House, now owned by Tom Mine, was built by Pajaro Valley pioneer Frederick Thurwachter, in 1872.

action was suggested yesterday. Symons said he may bring it up at a later date.

The applicant for moving the house is Darrell Darling, who operates a bed-and-breakfast

inn in Santa Cruz. Darling was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARO
June 16, 1993
APTOS BRANCH
7695 Soquel
Aptos, California