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Canyon Developer Offers Water System To Soquel

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Lowell E. Grattan has a water system to give away, but he can't find anyone willing to accept it.

Grattan, who plans a condominium development near Sand Dollar Beach, Monday night asked directors of the Soquel Creek County Water District to accept the system, which he promised to build to district specifications, at "cost plus your profit".

The Los Gatos developer plans staged development of the property, known as The Canyon, to an ultimate 30 units. He said the first segment of the development will be 36 units.

Water district directors didn't leap at the offer. They referred the matter to Robert Johnson, district manager, for recommendation. They explained Johnson would have to determine the feasibility of the project and Grattan would have to pay a fee to compensate for the time spent, whether or not the district agrees to take over the system.

Grattan agreed.

He told directors he planned to install a new well and to make use of an existing inadequate one, "so you can

figure we'll have a well and a half for source," and to build a 100,000-gallon water storage tank.

After Grattan left the meeting directors admitted they "weren't too keen about accepting another isolated water system." Board Chairman Kenneth Izant expressed the hope the system may be linked to the La Selva Beach system, if the district does agree to take it over.

Johnson was asked to bring his recommendation to the September board meeting.

Other business include:

LINE EXTENSION — Plans and specifications were received for the extension of district mains along Soquel Drive to Park Avenue. Directors accepted the specifications, but deleted specified copper wire at Johnson's recommendation. The manager said it wasn't necessary.

Izant posed no objection, but said he wanted it removed from the specifications, for if "it's in the specifications that's what I expect to get. I feel if we don't get it, the contractor is gypping us."

The chairman added he knew specifications on past jobs had called for copper wire, but it

had not been used. "We paid for it, but we didn't get it."

Johnson attempted to explain that most specifications are not followed absolutely, but Izant insisted this would not be the case with the water district in the future.

"I grant it has not always been done," he said. "Now we are turning a new leaf for future specifications. If it's in the specs, that's what we're going to get."

MEETING DATE — The board will meet on Tuesday in September, it was agreed, because the regular meeting date falls on the Labor Day holiday.

METERS — Directors accepted the \$18,639 bid of Rockwell Manufacturing Company for its year's supply of water meters. The sum covers 425 3/4-inch meters, three half-inch, four two-inch and 60 one-inch, to be delivered in shipments over the year.

REPORTS — Izant asked that directors be kept fully informed about "problems" which arise in the district. He pointed out a pump motor had burned out and been repaired, but Johnson's monthly report made no note of it.

"I want to be familiar with what's going on in the district," Izant said. "If a line breaks, an employe has an accident in one of our trucks, or anything like that, I want to know it."

Referring to the pump motor, Johnson said he "obviously felt it was a normal function of management to handle matters like that" and had simply overlooked it in his monthly report.

Izant replied directors are "a peculiar board" who have been "used to handling some of these matters" and its members always want to be "fully aware of what's going on."