

1-15-59

City Claims Reservoir Best School Site

City planning commissioners last night formally recommended Site "D," just south of Bay street reservoir, as the best spot for the new West Side elementary school.

The planners had been asked for recommendations by school trustees, who have generally narrowed site selection to three parcels, all in the same area.

The recommendation was made on criteria of accessibility, freedom from noise, land use relationships, "buildability," adequacy of acreage, price and ease of acquisition, according to facts presented by City Planning Director Robert Cook.

The other two sites, "B" and "C," are north and south of Meder street near Bay street. Site "C" was described by the planners as "the least obnoxious" of the two remaining choices.

In voting, the planners based their choice partly on sewer line costs and assumed the reservoir site could be tied into the Moore street line, while the other sites could not.

Today City Manager Pete Tedesco said he was "highly skeptical that the limited capacity of the residential line would be adequate for the school's purposes."

This could mean that the school board faces from 2000 to 3000 feet of sewer main extension at a cost of about \$10 per foot, city officials estimate.

A conference was under way in Tedesco's office this morning to see if some financially feasible means of providing for the sewer line, which must come from Kenneth street, could be found.

In answer to criticism to the reservoir area site, planners noted that construction of the water storage facility included hollowed out rock, reinforced concrete, earth fill and rock.

This, the commissioners felt, would provide necessary protection to any school development "downhill" from the reservoir.