

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL  
8-20-76**Board Hearing Aug. 31****'Match Point' Is Near**By DALE POLLOCK  
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After being volleyed back and forth for almost nine months, the La Selva Beach tennis court controversy is heading towards match point before the County Board of Supervisors Aug. 31.

Dispute over the proposed courts, which would be located on Florido Ave. behind the La Selva clubhouse and firehouse, centers on the use of \$28,000 in federal revenue sharing funds and any additional costs the La Selva Recreation District would be asked to absorb.

Among the points of contention is an appropriate tax rate increase to cover the district's additional costs in establishing

the two tennis courts. The board of supervisors ruled that the revenue sharing funds could not be used without an election being held in the district.

According to Dick Struck, chairman of the recreation district, "We will not use a dime of district funds for construction" of the courts. Any additional monies would be spent on additional site acquisition, parking and landscaping, he said.

That estimate is sharply contested by a local group calling themselves La Selvas for Sensible Government. Bob Marks, secretary of the organization, claimed, "It may seem like we're getting something for nothing, but we're not." Marks estimated the total cost of the

courts with parking, additional land and night lights to be in the area of \$60,000.

Much of the dispute revolves around separate polls conducted by the recreation district and the citizen's group. Varying responses showed La Selva Beach residents generally in favor of the tennis courts, but unclear about the merits of a tax increase.

The current tax rate for the La Selva park and recreation district is 34.4 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Struck estimated an increase of no more than four cents, and stressed that this adjustment will go before the district's voters on Nov. 2.

The La Selvas for Sensible Government don't want to see it get even that far. Marks said his group will ask the board to "quit fooling around and deny the revenue sharing funds now." In addition to citing the fact that 25 per cent of La Selva residents don't want the courts at all, Marks suggested several other drawbacks to the proposed recreation plan. These include an objection that the tennis courts would not be compatible with the La Selva General Plan by taking commercial land off the tax rolls, the proposed location of the courts that would cover the septic tank and drain field for the fire house and library, and the legal requirement that the courts be available to all county residents, which will put an added strain on parking and rest room facilities.

Struck estimated that 60 per cent of the use of the planned facilities would come from county residents, and 40 per cent from La Selva users. "If the courts are empty," he stated, "there will be an obvious increase in outside participation."

The recreation district chairman also pointed out that the purchase of three and a half lots contiguous to the property already owned is a binding commitment. Even if the tennis courts are not built, Struck said, the \$19,000 lots will be the property of the district.

Assistant County Counsel Jonathan Wittwer has suggested that an advisory poll be conducted in the place of an actual district election. This

could be more economically feasible and aid in determining the will of the majority, Wittwer wrote to the board. Whatever the board's decision, it is clear that some La Selva residents will be unhappy. The question remains whether the board can pick its way through the multitude of

positions expressed within the La Selva Beach community, and reach an equitable means of determining the will of the majority.

**For La Selva Courts**