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CITY TO OFFER STATE \$10,000 TO GET JOB DONE BEFORE FREEWAY

Joint-Spending Proposal Made In Effort To Alleviate Traffic Jam

The urgent problem of facilitating traffic flow on Morrissey boulevard before traffic is dumped in the new thoroughfare from the Santa Cruz-Rob Roy freeway is somewhat nearer solution.

After recommendations were submitted to the city council during its long session last night by City Manager Neal Smith, the city fathers approved a plan to contribute highway and gas tax funds if the state agrees to undertake the work and complete it by the time the freeway becomes operative.

City contribution under this plan would amount to \$10,000 toward the widening of the boulevard, and \$9500 toward the installation of traffic regulating signals at the intersection of Morrissey boulevard, Water street, and Soquel avenue.

In his report, Smith said that engineers from the state division of highways told city officials here last Thursday that if the city would contribute an amount around \$10,000 to the Morrissey boulevard project, the state would probably start work on it before the freeway was completed.

They even indicated that it would be done as an "extra" under the freeway contract. This position represents an important change from previous stands that the state is prohibited from spending any construction money on Morrissey boulevard until the freeway is opened up as a traversible highway, and the street then becomes a temporary part of the state highway system.

The engineers suggested that if a letter was written to John H. Skeggs, the assistant highway engineer in charge of the San Francisco district that the city would make such a contribution, efforts would be made to get the job under way before long.

Smith also stated that at the present time there are some \$7000 remaining in the old quarter-cent highways within the city of Santa Cruz. Fred J. Grumm, deputy state highway engineer, has indicated that he would not object to having this money used on Morrissey boulevard, Smith said. The city manager concluded that if we would add about \$3000 from our major streets money, there is a good possibility that the state would go ahead with the project before summer.

A sum of \$9500 of major street money would go toward the traffic signals mentioned above; thus a total of about \$12,500 would be earmarked from major street funds for the next fiscal year. He estimated gas tax revenue for this fund is about \$60,000 per year.

Another project within the scope of improving Morrissey is the moving of trees on the center strip of the boulevard. The trees, which are now dormant, stand 30 feet apart, and it was felt that if they could be moved closer together, this would facilitate work the state might undertake. Accordingly, the council authorized the street department to begin immediately with "Operation Uproot." The 83 London Plane trees would be heavily pruned to stand the shock, and would then be moved to within 15 feet of each other.

Street Superintendent Don Bruce said that originally, every property owner along the boulevard was expected to care for the trees in front of his property, but that through the years, the burden has fallen entirely to the city. Mayor Roy Hammond was very active in the effort to retain the trees during his administration. Bob Burton, now in Guam, was instrumental in planting the trees.

Work was scheduled to start this morning, but Bruce said technical difficulties had arisen due to pipes running along the strip. Studies of how to overcome this problem are now being made.

Following a lengthy discussion, the council authorized the city manager to negotiate with the state toward this suggested solution of the Morrissey problem, and to start work on the tree moving. The councilmen definitely felt that the city should not be called upon to finance even part of the project, and that eventually the state would have to carry out the work anyhow.

However, since the people of Santa Cruz would be the principal victims of ensuing conditions once the freeway commences to dump traffic

Judah Wins Continuance On Artichoke Bill

Sacramento, March 23 (WNS)—A proposal to liberalize the tolerance for artichoke damage caused by freezing had been set today for hearing on March 29.

Sponsored by Senator Fred Weybret of Salinas the measure (SB-80) was considered by the senate agriculture committee here last night but was put over after protests from growers in the Davenport area were received.

Senator H. R. Judah of Santa Cruz asked for the continuance until next Tuesday stating he will at that time have an alternate measure on the subject.

Provisions of the Weybret proposal would delete the present requirement that artichokes be free from freeze damage for at least one and one half inches of the stem below the choke.

Randy Barsotti of Castroville testified that choke growers in the Castroville area have been hit by frost and have been forced to dump thousands of dollars worth of chokes because of the stringent requirement. He said the chokes were edible but had frost damage to stem extending to less than one and a half inches below choke.

Peter N. Kantor, Monterey agriculture commissioner, said tests conducted show no injury to choke from freezing temperatures down to 24 degrees although stem is damaged.

Senator Judah, who read a telegram from Davenport growers, declaring present proposal to be shortsighted because of unusual weather condition, said the bill proposed by Weybret was similar to one introduced by former Senator Edward Tickle of Monterey in 1937. They said that bill was defeated.

Edward Modena of Castroville backed up the Weybret measure stating he represented the Castroville growers numbering about 60. He said Monterey county contains more than 4200 of the state's total of 7000 acres of artichoke growers.

Senator Judah's newly introduced bill would maintain the present law, which has not been amended since 1933, and would give statutory approval of the new artichoke box that has been in use since the State Director of Agriculture gave interim approval on July 8, 1948. All artichoke growers and shippers are said to favor the new container.

Duplication Of Streets Taken Up At Live Oak

At a meeting of the Live Oak volunteer fire department last night in Live Oak hall there was a discussion of making address and street name changes for approximately 19 Live Oak area streets.

At present there is duplication of street names and overlapping of addresses. Taking part in the talks were Supervisor Lloyd A. Foster, Harlan C. Smith, chairman of the county planning commission, and William L. Weybright, commission secretary.

Vice-President V. B. Stonecipher presided. Following the discussion he appointed a committee consisting of L. R. G.

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However, since the people of Santa Cruz would be the principal victims of ensuing conditions once the freeway commences to dump traffic into the inadequate traffic lane, the offer to the state was approved for the benefit of the citizens of the community.

Supervisors And Grand Jury Meet

Santa Cruz county's grand jury and the board of supervisors were closeted behind guarded doors of the superior courtroom today from early morning until the noon hour.

Subject or subjects under discussion were not disclosed when the supervisors left the chambers while the grand jury remained for further talk.

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