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DeLaveaga Storm Clouds Disperse

By Wallace Wood
Sentinel Staff Writer

Another chapter in the DeLaveaga Saga moved toward a close today, with city-county misunderstandings almost resolved and harsh words almost forgotten.

Yesterday, with the sun breaking through a morning drizzle into a gorgeous day, Santa Cruz Mayor Eugene Fleming told the city parks and recreation commission that stormy words over the park should be pushed into the past.

And the commission, in a unanimous resolution, told the city council that development of DeLaveaga does not hinge on the \$120,000 that county supervisors refused to give it. They said the city should "push ahead" on its own, if necessary.

"There are always other possibilities on the horizon as

far as money is concerned," Fleming agreed.

The reader will recall that Mayor Fleming and other city officials were beside themselves with anger when the county rejected the city's request for money. The county, in distributing \$217,000 in state Proposition I park funds, had given the Santa Cruz harbor \$125,000 and Watsonville's Pinto lake \$92,000.

Santa Cruz City Manager Dave Koester retorted then that lack of money would set work on DeLaveaga back several years, and Fleming said the county had "broken faith" with the city after turning over the county's interest in the park to them.

Supervisors had considered the park fund split fairly between the north and the south county to insure the success of

the harbor and Pinto lake projects, and were miffed at the city's seeming ingratitude.

Supervisors' Chairman Tom Black offered to take the park back and have the county develop it.

This offer had a sobering effect on both the county board and city officials. Other supervisors were quick to point out the county has no parks department and no money to develop recreational facilities now.

City officials were braced with a "crying towel" for Dave Koester from Supervisor Vincent Locatelli, who then warned that the county might put such undesirable uses as a juvenile hall, jail farm, or detention facility in the park if it got it back.

So it was that both sides seemed to realize little could be

gained by having the park divorced from one and remarried to the other public body.

Black has offered to talk the matter over with Fleming at lunch this week, and Locatelli has made a similar lunch offer to Koester.

And Fleming said he will be discussing other ways to get money for DeLaveaga at his luncheon with Black. "I have been told there are funds and they (supervisors) will help."

"After all, this park is both for city and county residents, and we have a remarkably efficient agency ready to develop the park," parks commissioner James Hammond explained.

City parks director Carl Bengston, with a modest blush at Hammond's remarks, added that the city has \$4000 in this year's budget for "park improvements"

and hopes to budget close to \$25,000 for DeLaveaga next year. While not a large amount, he said much already has been done with less.

Benston revealed the park controversy almost wrecked some delicate negotiations with the national guard on a land trade.

The national guard owns about 120 acres of the 575-acre park and the city would like to use the land as a golf course. Benston said the "basic points" of negotiations already are worked out for trading land leases with the guard.

Now that the tug-of-war over the park is cooling off, Bengston told parks commissioners he expects to meet with the new national guard state commander within a week or two.

The only cloud still hovering on the horizon seemed to be the state's pending approval of the county's fund split. If the state does not agree with the county on blanking out DeLaveaga, that cloud might have a silver lining for the city.

Cabrillo Community Services Listed

By John Elliott
Staff Writer

Last October saw the greatest community use of Cabrillo

Trustees also considered the following items:

STEEL FRAME — Approved construction of a 1200-square-