

# Levy says traffic key issue in Aptos

## Chamber told development in Village area is linked to transportation

By CANDACE ATKINS

Aptos-area development cannot be discussed without mentioning traffic, and unless the two issues are tackled simultaneously, traffic jams in the Village will get even worse.

That is the opinion of Second District Supervisor Robley Levy, who gave an update this morning on proposed growth in Aptos to members of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce at their monthly meeting held at Aptos Seascape.

"In growth and growth management, we will have a slight change (in 1985) from environmental protection to services and delivery of services," she said. "I see this as a turning point and a kind of important one."

Levy quickly reviewed the various developments in the planning stages for Aptos (most have not been approved for construction at this time), including Wingspread, which could mean 200 to 500 units;

Seascape additions that could add 1,000 new housing units; the La Mirada 50-unit project, which would mean at least 35 new homes for seniors behind the Aptos Post Office; approximately 55 proposed units on Trout Gulch Road near Valencia Road; 56 proposed units for Village Glen; 17 units plus commercial space at Aptos Junction; and three other smaller proposed developments — two 12-unit projects and one five-unit project.

"The traffic issues and density are very much intertwined," she said, adding in jest, "Any of you who go to Aptos Post Office know what a lovely excursion it can be."

Levy said a traffic study is planned for Aptos Village, which will be financed by one of the developments. There is a Traffic Improvement District for Aptos, but the fund is only \$6,000, which is inadequate even for a study, much less a road improvement project, she

said. But building projects can bring needed funds for road repair and improvements, she added. "With development projects, we hope to improve services."

As a construction-permit condition, Levy said, many developers must improve roads near their projects or contribute money for traffic studies. Many are charged additional money for local school districts, called impact fees, since housing brings new students to local schools.

"The issue for the future is where we are going to get funds for capital improvements to serve higher populations," she said. "This will be the real crunch."

Levy called the stated goals of the County Transportation Plan, which stress increased public transit, "reasonably reasonable."

"There is hope to increase the use of public transportation," she said. "There is a

great commitment to provide transportation (to elderly and handicapped people and those who can't afford cars). I think the goals are reasonably reasonable — I just can't say whether we can attain them."

Levy also reminded Chamber members that the public hearing stage is their best opportunity to have their opinion heard about local issues, and she encouraged them to attend the hearings and offer their views and suggestions.