

Levy won't change stance on Wingspread

By BUD O'BRIEN

Supervisor Robley Levy said today her position on the proposed Wingspread Beach development is exactly as it's always been: She'll make no commitment one way or another until all the facts are on the table.

Levy was reacting to what amounted to an ultimatum from the developers of the Wingspread proposal to drop plans for a development that would include performing arts and recreation facilities "without some indication from the board, or individual supervisors, about whether or not they approve the concept and the public benefits" of the biggest of two alternative developments proposed for the Porter Sesnon property in Aptos.

That position of the developer, Hare, Brewer and Kelley of Palo Alto, was taken when it was learned that the larger project, called Project B,

could not be considered without another environmental impact report (EIR) being prepared. Developer Ryland Kelley had taken the position that an EIR done several years earlier for a proposed project that was even larger than the one proposed in Project B was sufficient.

When County Counsel Dwight Herr handed down the opinion that another EIR would be necessary, representatives of Kelley responded with what has become known as the "ultimatum."

Asserting that it would be too costly to go through another EIR process without at least an informal nod of approval for the concept of the project from a majority of the supervisors, Kelley's attorney, Richard Allen, said that without that positive signal, Project B would be dropped.

That would leave Project A, a much smaller project that does not include any of the perform-

ing arts or recreational facilities, as the only development being proposed for the property.

Conservative supervisors Dan Forbus and E. Wayne Moore Jr. — who have never hidden their support for the Wingspread development — immediately said they were willing to indicate their support for the bigger project, always provided that it met the county's environmental standards and other criteria.

Liberal supervisors Gary Patton and Joe Cucchiara, persistent foes of any large private development on the property, were obviously going to make nothing like the commitment sought by the developers.

That makes Levy the "swing vote." She has said all along that she will give the Wingspread proposal a "fair hearing," but that she will make no commitment until all of the information concerning the project's impacts (traffic,

sewage, etc.) on the neighborhood and the extent of the public benefits involved are in.

The squeeze play initiated by the developers comes just as Levy has become embroiled in a tough campaign for re-election as Second District supervisor against conservative-backed Dave Tunno.

But Levy shrugged off the the political implications behind the ultimatum. She said she didn't believe the pressure being exerted by Kelley was part of any political plot against her, but only came about coincident with the election campaign because of the timing of the EIR ruling.

Nevertheless, she agreed it had the effect of putting her, or trying to put her, on the spot. She refused to blink, however. She said she would not change her position one iota. That position is that she'll make her decision when the proper time comes. She said that to give

"some indication" of her position on a particular project — as Kelley is asking supervisors to do — might send out a misleading signal and she did not want to play that game.

"I will give it (Wingspread) a fair hearing, and I'm sure the entire board will," she said.

Levy also had a few words to say about some attacks on her by Tunno at his campaign kickoff breakfast Wednesday. But her tone was more ironic than angry.

Noting that Tunno had accused her of supporting big housing projects in the county, she said it appeared that her opponent was trying a role-reversal ploy by portraying himself as the supporter of controlled growth and her as the friend of development.

"He's trying to reposition himself, I guess," Levy said. "His poll (Tunno commissioned a poll of the district) must have confirmed what I've

been saying all along — that people in the Second District are concerned with growth, traffic, the integrity of neighborhoods"

Levy also gave Tunno a grade of "Zero" in the accuracy of his accusations against her Wednesday. She noted that he had said she voted for the Seabreeze project on McGregor Drive when that project was approved before she even got on the board; that he had accused her of opposing safety improvements on Highway 17, when "in fact, I voted for improvements on the median on 17, and have gone to Sacramento to lobby for more improvements."

She said she was simply mystified by Tunno's reference to her "support" for unnamed developments along Park Avenue and for "1,000 units" at Aptos Seascapes.

"I don't know what he's talking about," she said.