

# Capitola May Try Again To Annex Porter-Sesnon

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Another stumbling block to the proposed \$80 million Wingspread Beach development on the 67-acre Porter-Sesnon property came in the name of Capitola Thursday night as the City Council decided the time is right to make another attempt at annexation.

In a surprise move, the council unanimously supported Councilman Michael Routh's suggestion and directed City Manager Steve Burrell to check with residents in the Porter-Sesnon area to see if they want to become part of the city.

The 67-acre parcel is located east of the city on the ocean side of Highway 1, south of Cabrillo College. In March 1980, the city failed in its first move for annexation when the county Local Agency Formation Commission approved expansion of the city's sphere of influence some 74 acres eastward. But, it drew the line at Porter-Sesnon.

The new annexation move comes in the wake of strong protests from area residents opposed to developer Hare, Brewer and Kelley's huge development proposal called

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Wingspread Beach. It calls for an \$80 million, 630-unit visitor-serving complex including motel-like units and a detailed performing arts center.

The City Council has made no secret of its opposition to the plan, citing detrimental impacts such as traffic and its desire for Porter-Sesnon to be part of the proposed New Brighton State Beach expansion.

That sentiment prompted 13 Pine Tree Lane residents, who had earlier been opposed to annexation, to change their minds at the last LAFC hearing. It was too little, too late, however, and LAFC voted 3-2 to deny Capitola's request to include the 67 acres in the annexation try last year.

The most recent resident uprising against the Wingspread Beach proposal includes the formation of a citizens group called Friends of Porter-Sesnon.

Routh admitted this "definite change of climate" prompted the new suggestion.

Mayor Jerry Clarke admitted afterward that the annexation possibility "certainly is much greater this time."

While he termed the LAFC process "still several months away," Clarke pointed out that the make-up of the LAFC Board has changed. He added, "While I couldn't bet on it, I would have to say any vote this time would be real close."

Clarke reiterated that the city has been "reaching toward Porter-Sesnon becoming part of the park system all along." He said it was "timely" to start the process again.

Routh's surprise suggestion came in the midst of two minor proposed annexations on small parcels near 41st Avenue. The city will proceed with LAFC for the taking in those parcels.

Burrell said later that "as long as we're doing these annexations, we might as well try Porter-Sesnon at the same time."

He added that even though LAFC denied the city application last time, the city still completed necessary work, including an environmental impact report.