

EOC 9-17-70

OEDP Report Completed And Approved

By BRUCE McPHERSON
Sentinel Staff Writer

An updated Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) report that emphasizes the importance of tourist-oriented industry in solving the Santa Cruz area's high unemployment situation was approved unanimously this morning by the County Industrial Commission.

The report is to be sent immediately to the Economic Development Administration of the federal Commerce Department office in Seattle, Wash., and head office in Washington, D.C.

Completion of the report is critical at this time since the local Joint Powers Authority has reactivated its request to EDA for a \$900,000 grant for construction of a convention center at Lighthouse Point. EDA officials said an updated OEDP report was necessary before they could act on the grant request.

T. an. 44,- The OEDP report explains the physical, economic and social status and needs of the county and has been helpful in the

county's getting grants for such projects as sewage facilities in Watsonville and Davenport.

Unemployment in the Santa Cruz area, which gets as high as 12 per cent in months such as February, could be reduced with the building of a convention center, the report states. The January - February - March part of the year, incidentally, is a prime time for conventions to be held.

Commission member Richard Brown, executive director of the Community Action Board, noted, "There are millions of dollars riding on this (updated) report. I think it has been excellently done and am enthusiastically behind it. I think Don Fultz (Santa Cruz Chamber manager) and Jim Evans (of the county administrative office) should be commended for putting this together quickly when we need it so badly."

Jan Fosselius of the county planning department also spent much time on updating the new report.

It was also announced that the makeup of the county OEDP committee is scheduled to be changed. Up to now, the Industrial Commission has been given the task by the county board of supervisors to keep the report up to date.

The commission, however, passed the recommendation this morning that the OEDP committee should include 30 representatives from nine categories in the county, including: local government, public works, human resources, industrial, tourist and recreation, education resources, agricultural, commercial and financial, natural resources and cultural development. The proposal for the new OEDP committee structure will be presented to the supervisors Tuesday.

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ver, necessary with the new zoning ordinance. This is because the R-L zone is more inclusive of the R-2, 3 and 4 zones, and it will not be necessary to rezone a parcel from R-2 to R-4, for instance.

Another matter before the commission, William Nottoli's application to reclassify property in the Seabright Avenue, was denied without prejudice for principally the same reasons. Nottoli would be able to build about the same number of units under the new R-L zone as he would have been able to in requesting a zone change from R-2 to R-4.