

# Supervisors Adopt Shoreline Plan 2 - 24-54

An attempt yesterday by a handful of residents in the Rio del Mar area to draw a red herring across the county's amended shoreline plan, failed after an hour and a half of arguing, and the shoreline proposal was adopted by the county supervisors.

The red herring was in the form of an offer by Erik Krag, owner of the Aptos S&S ranch, to sell for public use, his mile-long Rey Monte beach, if the county would exclude the Rio del Mar Beach club and adjoining land from the proposed master plan.

The offer to substitute was made by Robert Beresford, San Jose attorney, who said he represented the 40 members of the Rio del Mar Beach Owners association.

He said that after making a poll of the members, he found they were unanimously opposed to the acquisition of the Beach club by the state, and asked that that portion of the plan be deleted.

Beresford maintained that the idea of taking the Beach club was a basic error in planning, and was short term planning on a long term need.

The project would produce a cramped dead-end beach, where the traffic would pile up creating chaos, the attorney warned, adding that the plan was a costly one and property values would drop in the area.

But, said he, the directors of the beach owners association had prevailed upon Krag to offer Rey Monte beach to the state for beach purposes.

The beach is located between Santa Cruz and Watsonville, and the ocean frontage is part of the old Spreckels Aptos rancho. The property starts at Bush gulch, just below Rio del Mar, and continues south for about 1 1/4 miles. The white sand beach is between 275 and 350 feet wide in this area, free from under currents and gentle in slope.

It also has some of the best clamming in the bay area.

The attorney said that Krag's offer also included sufficient land to provide a thorough four-lane right-of-way from State Highway 1, at the south end of the property.

Before anyone had a chance to answer the attorney, William Weybright, secretary of the county planning commission, which has already approved the master shoreline plan, popped up and took a stand in the name of the commission.

He said the state owned a portion of the beach now and it was better maintained than approximately the one-fifth that still remains in private ownership.

The secretary stated that at least that portion of the beach is always kept clean and that in addition, there was always the possibility that the Beach club could fall into hands less desirable than those of the state, as the property was up for sale.

Weybright argued he was certain that the state would be interested in the Krag property, but not in lieu of the Beach club, which it had set its mind on obtaining.

He pointed out that the planning commission had spent long hours of study on the master shoreline plan and that when the residents of Rio del Mar had objected to including the beach unless Beach road also was included in the proposed take, the commission included the road in the master plan.

Finally, he reminded the supervisors, if there was any deletion in the plan at this time, it would have to be returned to the planning commission for further action,

which would cause undue delay. Such a delay, he pointed out, might make the county lose the matching funds set aside by the state for beach purchases here.

Board Chairman Phil Rowe wanted to know if it was possible that after the master plan was approved, the land might lie idle for as long as four years.

"No," Weybright replied, "the remainder of that \$10 million which has been lying in the state treasury since 1947 will be spent right away in the beach acquisitions. As a matter of fact, Los Angeles is attempting to get \$1 million right now."

J. Belden Bias of Seacliff, who has negotiated several land deals with the state, said that 40 objectors was a minimum number compared with the objections made when Seacliff was taken over by the state.

That was in 1930, he explained. Now, he said, the people are 100 per cent in favor of state controlled beach and park areas.

Someone asked Beresford how much Krag wanted for his Rey Monte beach.

The attorney said it was his understanding that in long range planning money was not important.

H. O. Heiner, president of the Santa Cruz Land Title company, which holds title to the Beach club, was in favor of the state taking over the property. He said the state wanted the land and the buildings and had even thought of running a road in along one of the gulches to open up the existing bottleneck.

Nine-tenths of the land is already state-owned, he went on, and besides there were no protests made when the matter was up before the planning commission.

"If it isn't approved," he concluded, "I wouldn't be surprised if the state would say to — with Santa Cruz county, we'll give the money to Monterey county or someone else."

Charles E. Braun of Claudius drive said that he had a \$50,000 investment in Rio del Mar and that if the state spends good money to buy the Beach club, "a white elephant," then somebody had better be taken out of Sacramento."

Bias retorted that the Beach club was a run down mess now with a stench to match it, and that anything the state would do to it would be an improvement.

Braun and others protested the purchase, then, on the grounds that the traffic problem would be tremendous if people were shuttled down to the already crowded area.

Supervisors were worried about that possibility, too, but finally decided to let the state solve the problem.

George Penniman, Santa Cruz city councilman, told the board he wished to reiterate the city's stand — it would not ask for the city beaches to be included unless the plan was sent back to the planning commission for further study.

## Board Discusses Salary Ordinance

Santa Cruz county supervisors were huddled with District Attorney June D. Borina yesterday until after 6 o'clock, going over the proposed salary ordinance and its changes before giving it formal approval.

After considerable discussion, there were still a number of points to be cleared up at the end of the session.

Supervisors hoped to adopt the amended ordinance at their next meeting March 2.