

SANTA CRUZ SENTIENL
4-8-76

La Selva Group Delays Push For 688 Prefix

Glen Witmer appeared before the latest directors meeting of the La Selva Beach Improvement Assn., told Pacific Telephone's side of the story in the beef the association has with the phone company, and the association agreed to table its efforts to lodge a formal complaint against the company with the Public Utilities Commission.

When the association couldn't talk Pacific Telephone into giving La Selva a 688 prefix, the association decided to go over the phone company's head to the PUC.

But Witmer, manager of Pacific Telephone's Watson-

ville operation, told the association La Selva's telephone bills are going down.

He noted the monthly base rate for a single-party line in La Selva—and Watsonville—is \$5.90. But La Selva, currently pays an additional \$1.30 distance charge.

On July 7, he noted, the distance charge will be dropped for La Selva, so phone bills there will be the same as in Watsonville.

Witmer pointed out 50 per cent of Watsonville subscribers call Santa Cruz at least once a month. And 10 per cent of the subscribers in Santa Cruz call Watsonville at least once a

month.

The income from such toll calls couldn't be just eliminated, Witmer pointed out, it would have to be replaced somehow.

The La Selva group had wanted the 688 number because that prefix can call either Watsonville or Santa Cruz toll free.