

Housing For Larger SC Families Is Improved

Larger families should have an easier time qualifying for the county's Section 8 Housing program now that 111 units and \$280,000 have been added to the program, Housing Authority commissioners have been told.

Housing Authority Executive Director Rod Pulley explained that now there are 408 units that can be subsidized in part through Section 8, with much of the increase coming in three and four bedroom units, not included in the previous contract.

Previously, there were only 15 three-bedroom units to be subsidized, a figure now enlarged to 55. From zero four-bedroom units, the number has jumped to 10, a similar increase occurring in two-bedroom units designed for elderly residents.

"Now we have 408 chances in

this lottery to make it work," Pulley said today. "The greater number of people you have out there with certificates, the number of rental units taken should increase."

Pulley remains optimistic that the major hurdle to the Section 8 program, the low fair market rent levels, will be raised by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). The agency requested a current sample of the market to back up Pulley's claim that higher rent levels are needed, so the Housing Authority conducted a six per cent sample that Pulley described as "the most comprehensive housing survey done in the county."

That survey was sent up to HUD last week, and as Pulley notes, "I want their decision very soon. It's not as if we just started talking about it —

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we've been arguing this since 1975, when the limits were first published."

In other business, the Housing Authority was addressed by Bob Reposa from the Rural

Housing Alliance in Washington, D.C. According to Pulley, he inspected the Authority's operations, and indicated he and the alliance were pleased enough to recommend 1977-78

funding approval for the Authority's \$40,000 request.

Pulley also announced that \$409,000 had been approved by the Department of Migrant Services for replacement of 36 units of farm worker housing at the Buena Vista Migrant Housing Center. Pointing out that 14 rural counties were competing for \$3.5 million in state funds, Pulley said he was pleased that Santa Cruz garnered 15 per cent of that total.

Pulley also announced an increased budget for the Section 23 housing program, in which the Authority in effect rents the

units to applicants. The new budget is \$807,010, compared to last year's budget of \$780,715, with the increase coming in additional salary, utility and rental costs.

A TECHO loan approved by the commissioners at their last meeting should be repaid by March 24, Pulley said, and a public hearing will be heard on the Authority's conflict of interest code on April 11. A measure to place a proposal for 50 units of low-income and elderly housing on the Watsonville Municipal ballot on May 10 also was approved.

Liddicoat's Work Plan Is Too Late

Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat's plan to put "employable welfare recipients" to work in this county is years too late, she learned at Tuesday's board hearing.

He had such a program for its general assistance recipients since before 1970.

Patton said that about one-third of the recipients on general assistance — the county-

He cautioned Liddicoat about proposing plans before she had all the facts and added, "Welfare benefits are an inflammatory issue (and your pro-

Liddicoat, however, successfully moved to have the social service department conduct a study to see if the program could be expanded