

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

Harbor

115th Year—No. 172

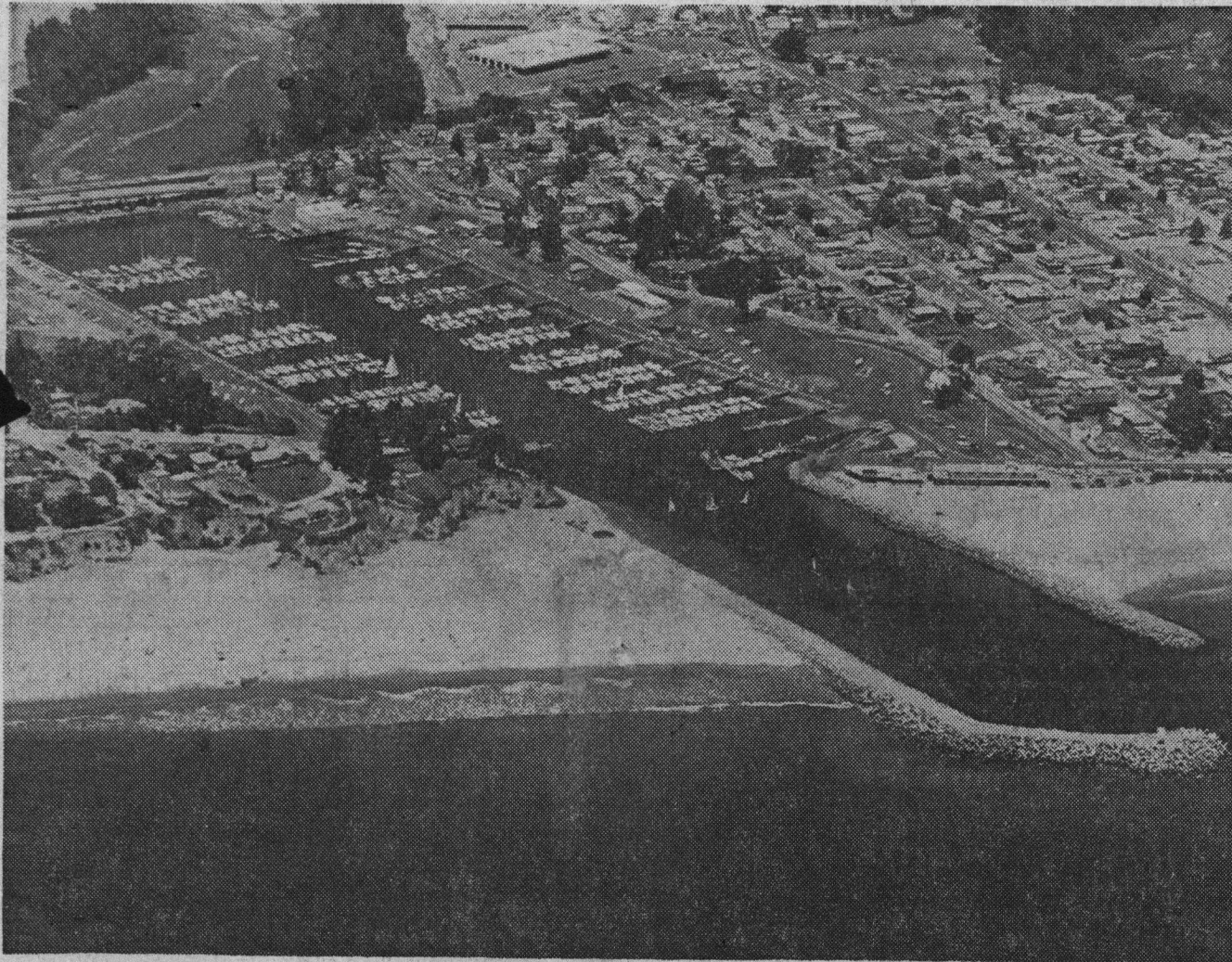
Wednesday Afternoon, July 22, 1970

36 Pages

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Today's  
Closing  
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## A Floating Dredge To Clean Harbor Channel



By BRUCE McPHERSON  
Sentinel Staff Writer

A big step was taken Tuesday toward installation of a floating dredge that is expected to solve the perennial problem of a sand-plugged entrance to the Santa Cruz small craft harbor.

The Army Corps of Engineers recommended to port district commissioners in San Francisco that the floating dredge be selected.

The proposal coincides with the district's own consultant firm recommendation for a floating dredge instead of a drag line system, underwater suction system or rail-knotted overhead suction system.

According to Harbormaster Lester Peterson, who was at the session with Commissioners James Leask, Ivan Ickes and John Boetger, the next step will be a public meeting here in mid-August for the corps to explain its choice.

He said the corps will ask the chief of engineers for final approval, which will take about four months. Bids must be received and time allotted for delivery, so it will be the early part of next summer before the dredge is expected to be in action. Peterson said the corps at this point plans more maintenance dredging next spring.

Cost of the floating dredge

is expected to be about \$450,000, of which the port district will be responsible for 35 per cent. It now has \$122,000 in escrow for the purchase.

Peterson said alternatives to the floating dredge "were either unproven or not practical. The floating dredge is like a floating barge and can be used throughout the harbor for maintenance purposes. It is the most popular and is pretty much of a standard dredge for harbors."

Annual dredging of the harbor entrance (seen at middle right in this photo) has cost the corps more than \$500,000 since the harbor opened in 1964. Some sand build-up at the edges of the jetties can be detected in the picture.

Final approval of the sand bypass plant will assist the port district in getting state funds to expand the upper harbor (at upper left), Peterson said.

"As soon as we get something in writing (from the corps) for acquisition of the floating dredge, we have reason to believe the state money may be released for the upper harbor job," he said.

Expansion of the harbor would allow 455 berths to be added to the present 334.

The state initially agreed to loan the district \$2.77 million for expansion, and last month approved an additional \$1.25 million, due mostly to increased costs of construction.

(Photo By Sentinel Chief Photographer Pete Amos)