

Porter-Sesnon

Aptos CofC Opposes Annexation To Capitola

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The see-saw battle over the future use of the 67-acre Porter-Sesnon property swayed back to the Aptos Chamber of Commerce this morning as directors unanimously opposed a recent announcement by the Capitola City Council to make another attempt at annexation.

Chamber President Glenn Specht termed such an attempt as an "exercise of futility," saying most of the persons involved still feel the same.

The chamber directed that a letter be sent to the county Local Agency Formation Commission, which rules on any sphere of influence expansions and subsequent annexations, in opposition to Capitola's announcement.

Porter-Sesnon is located east of Capitola on the oceanside of Highway 1, south of Cabrillo College.

Developers Hare, Brewer and Kelly have proposed the huge Wingspread Beach development there which calls for an \$80 million, 630-unit visitor-serving complex. While Capitola opposes the plan, the Aptos chamber has supported it.

Capitola failed last year to get LAFC to approve a sphere of influence expansion that would have included Porter-Sesnon. In somewhat of a surprise move, three weeks ago the Capitola Council moved toward another attempt in citing "a definite change of climate."

That change, according to Capitola officials, involves the Pine Tree Lane residents who reportedly have changed their original position and now support annexation to the city. Pine Tree Lane is located adjacent to Porter-Sesnon.

Specht told The Sentinel that if such a "change of climate" has occurred, Capitola should annex Pine Tree Lane and not Porter-Sesnon, too.

"I'm sure Capitola would love to annex Pine Tree Lane without Porter-Sesnon," she said, sarcastically.

She added that Capitola might be making another attempt for Porter-Sesnon "on the theory that if it keeps going back, people will get tired of protesting."

Capitola, at this point, has not made a formal request to LAFC concerning Porter-Sesnon.

In another land use matter, chamber directors made official a stand that was supported last month that favored state intentions for expanded campground facilities at The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

The state recently acquired an additional 55 acres to the 10,000-acre mountain park.

The chamber's letter will ask the state to put the future plan for the park on top priority, even though the state has admitted that development of the newly-acquired \$900,000 parcel is years away.

Director Brewster Burns brought up the expected angle that expansion of campgrounds at Nisene Marks might be used as "competition" against campground use on Porter-Sesnon, which has been suggested, in part, by the county Board of Supervisors.

Specht replied that use of campgrounds at Nisene Marks would simply represent a "reasonable method for good use of the park."

Director Chuck Holcomb added, "I can't resist, but it just seems to me that all of Aptos is going to become campsites."

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