

Post office, traffic, EIR are linked

Traffic problems around the new Aptos post office are still residents' major concerns for area

A meeting with post office officials has been scheduled by county Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat Friday, April 29, 1 p.m. in the planning department conference room, at the county governmental center.

The traffic impact on the area by the new facility, scheduled to open in June, is closely tied in with the future implementation of the Aptos village urban design plan, gathering dust in the planning department for the past year.

The county public works department has prepared a road-

widening proposal for Trout Gulch Road down to Soquel Drive in the village.

It competes in part with an Aptos Chamber of Commerce plan for cutting through Granite Way to the state-owned Hopkins right-of-way leading into the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

The county, says Mrs. Liddicoat, doesn't have enough money in its road budget to do any extensive work in the village area for several years.

Mrs. Liddicoat wants to tell the post office officials: "Your beautiful new post office is causing a problem, can you help us?"

The county, she said had little input into the design process, and could not require any road improvements, as it could with a private developer.

"An inferior jurisdiction (the county) is not consulted by a superior jurisdiction — the post office. They can do anything without consulting the planning department," adds the supervisor.

Implementation of the village urban design plan, completed more than a year ago, has been a prime concern of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce and other community groups.

It now hinges, Mrs. Liddicoat

says, on an environmental impact report.

The county's Environmental Review Committee has ruled that an EIR be done on the plan. Supervisors, lead by Gary Patton, want to dispense with the plan.

The ERC has remained steadfast and the issue is now being appealed by the supervisors to the planning commission.

The EIR would cost an estimated \$5,700.

Road development was not addressed in the village plan, reportedly at the insistence of former supervisor Dale Dawson, who was opposed to the extension of Polo Drive to Trout Gulch Road.

A new project to widen Trout Gulch Road and improve Soquel Drive would cost an estimated \$250,000.

"This is not on a list of projects that have funding within the next five years," Mrs. Liddicoat said in a letter to Chamber president Ted Colton, "but it is on the five-year road project list in a list of projects that are desired but unfunded. I feel that we should attempt to pursue this and keep asking that our project be moved up in priority; but realistically, it is not very high on the list at present."