

Aptos voters draw up a list

Political candidates are supposed to have political platforms and county supervisorial races are no different than the others.

So, the Aptos Council of Improvement Associations (COI) wants to add a few planks to the platforms of any candidates it considers recommending to the 3,500 members of its component groups — the Aptos Terrace, Rio del Mar, Seacliff and Seascape associations.

In an open letter signed by COI chairman Harry Bright, the associations told the candidates in the second supervisorial district:

"We have conducted a careful study and analysis of the most urgent needs of the district and the functions of this powerful office which impacts the lives, liberties, pocketbooks and properties of the constituency.

"Based on the considered judgment of our directors, in close consultation with member associations, we believe that for the good of our district and the county as a whole, to merit election, a candidate, at the very minimum, should publicly include the following promises in his or her platform:

—Responsiveness: Be dedicated to maintaining free and open channels of communication and be representative of all the people, not just those who actively worked on and contributed to a campaign or to the special interest groups who can afford the time and money to lobby their causes. The Council also feels a supervisor should earn the support of the people and respect their right to be free of excessive bureaucratic regulation.

—Fiscal responsibility: Support a policy which reflects a realistic relationship with the

taxpayer's ability and willingness to pay, and to refuse to fund programs unless a cost-benefit analysis proves them indispensable to basic needs. Candidates should also be willing to implement taxpayers' demands that government spending be curtailed and bureaucracies trimmed, with the savings applied to tax reductions.

The second district supervisor should also be wary of any state or federally - funded program which upon termination, becomes a county obligation.

—Aptos sewer project: Accept no further delays and expedite the completion of the project. The council notes that the sewer connection ban became effective in July, 1972 and still remains in effect. And even after this delay, engineering plans for construction of a transmission line to Live Oak are not completed and the construction phase will not be ready for bid until late this year. Completion of the project is now estimated for the fall, 1978.

"It is vital to the health and welfare of the Aptos community that sewer connections be permitted at the earliest possible date," the council added.

—Public protection: Place the highest priority on the security of homes and businesses, personal safety on the streets, beaches and parks, and work vigorously to implement the policy by closely cooperating with law enforcement agencies.

—Improvement of the economic climate: Work closely with the cities and public and private agencies to create an incentive program to attract clean industries and businesses that will provide employment opportunities to local school graduates, stop the draining away of our young families in

search of jobs, provide relief to our unemployment problem and expand the tax base.

—Growth: Endorse reasonable controlled growth as essential to a healthy economy, and to meet the needs of the people.

—Planning: Reorganize the county planning department's personnel and processing procedures; reduce the red tape and exorbitant expense that frequently engulfs even the simplest building permit.

Supervisors should also "further a policy of service, courtesy and responsiveness in dealings with the public and examine the composition of the planning commission to ensure that it is sufficiently representative of a broad segment of the community."

—Transportation: Periodically review the county transportation plan, and insist that it reflect realistic solutions to the current and prospective deficiencies in the state and county roads, and provide for the safe movement of

trucks, automobiles and transit buses. Candidates should also pledge that they would work to ensure that the county and the second district receive their fair share of state and federal transportation funds and that adequate sums are spent for road improvements. Bicycle and equestrian paths should be funded only after responsible studies and public hearings are completed on their feasibility and merit.

—Environment: Retain the enviable geographic balance between small cities and suburban and rural areas, consistent with the economic welfare of the county, and avoid air, water and noise pollution and sprawling over-development.

Supervisors should "recognize that the people who are here now and footing the bills are important cogs in the eco-system, and that their immediate needs and rights must be balanced with the possible requirements of future generations."