

Aptos CofC Endorses Swim Complex Plan

The proposed \$5.2 million aquatics complex and recreational vehicle campground in Live Oak was unanimously endorsed by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce this morning, following a presentation by Santa Cruz Aquatics Team spokesmen.

The pool proposal on the county-owned 17th Avenue and Brommer parcel, known as the Granite Rock property, features a 50-meter indoor public swimming pool, a diving pool and seating for some 3,500 spectators.

To maintain the annual estimated \$350,000 pool maintenance costs, the proposal calls for the RV campground in the form of some 180 campsites and 154 RV spaces. According to spokesman Dick Little, a conservative revenue estimate would be \$400,000 a year, which will be used to keep up the pools.

Both Little and SCAT Coach Bob Enea stressed the complex would be a private, non-profit enterprise open for public use nearly year-round. There would also be uses available ranging from swimming meets to canoe and fly fishing classes for the public.

It was pointed out by chamber director Bob McKenzie, a former alternate county planning commissioner, that past proposals for the 17-acre site included a senior citizens complex and low-cost housing. That alternative, however, did not garner the required approval from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department.

McKenzie termed the SCAT proposal as a "unique opportunity" for the public, as well as satisfying Coastal Act policies.

Chamber President Glenn Specht questioned the "direct benefits" to Aptos businesses, as earlier cited by Enea. She did point out, however, that the project "obviously would benefit the public on a whole."

County supervisors in December granted a 30-year lease on the property to SCAT, over the objections of Third District Supervisor Gary Patton. SCAT spokesmen are trying to gather support of their project.

In other business, chamber directors expressed some concern over the \$150 in costs incurred by the recent fashion show, sponsored by the chamber. It had been believed the show would be self-sustaining.

Director Timothy Cleary questioned whether the show was a "proper function" of the chamber. Specht defended the show in saying it served several businesses which were members.

Director Virgil Kester Jr. and Chamber Manager Bob Hoffman agreed with Cleary in stressing next year's show should be self-sustaining. Hoffman, reporting on other business, said nine memberships have been obtained since he became manager two months ago. Additionally, the chamber is now utilizing a small computer to assist in clarifying its membership.