

Realtor Steps Up His Fight Against New School Site

LA Fonda School

By Alan Pugh

Sentinel Staff Writer

Ed Hansmann, East Santa Cruz real estate developer, indicated today he would buck the Santa Cruz high school district right down to the last step in development of the La Fonda property on Soquel avenue.

The property is site of Hansmann's proposed Arana community. It is also the site chosen by the district for construction of a new high school, and the school district has started eminent domain proceeding to acquire the land. (See Page 9.)

Hansmann today revealed he was instigator of a petition that is being circulated around East Santa Cruz business firms, declaring that the La Fonda site does not meet state criteria as a school site.

The petition quotes San Francisco architect Robert Benninghoff as declaring the site is not suitable. Hansmann said Benninghoff is the architect for Arana community and made the survey and report at his behest.

The developer said his petitions have 100 or more signature "of merchants who believe a high school would be detrimental to their business." He also said school planning books point out that such a school should not be developed in a commercial zone such as exists along the proposed site.

Hansmann said he would present the petitions to both the city council and the school board. "When they (the school board) are faced with all the problems . . . they will do the

right thing and put the school where it belongs," Hansmann said.

Asked where he thought it belonged, Hansmann replied it should go either on the Chaminade property or the proposed harbor site.

Told that the Marianist brothers who own the Chaminade property had informed the school board they had no intentions of selling, Hansmann said: "Neither do I," and added that he would continue to plan for development of his proposed community. He said he would start building after rezoning mat-

ters had been approved. His request for rezoning comes before the city planning commission on April 7.

Hansmann said he had paid \$575 to file his petition with the planners and "we wouldn't have done this if we hadn't thought it would do some good."

The school board, meantime is proceeding with its land acquisition program through negotiation, if possible, and then condemnation, if that is the last resort, according to Superintendent Denzil Morrissey. "We will always be open for negotiation," he said.