

# Polo Grounds financing before board

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A plan to buy the Aptos Polo Grounds for \$2.7 million will be aired at tomorrow's meeting of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

The board has proposed developing the 62-acre meadow for use as a regional park. It plans to issue certificates of participation to finance the purchase. The certificates are similar to bonds, and essentially enable the county to borrow money by issuing notes through a bank.

According to parks director Ben Angove, the county will be able to repay the certificates with park fees levied on new developments. Because the Polo Grounds is a regional park the fees would be charged to new construction within a 15-mile radius of the park.

The board's pursuit of the regional park plan has killed another development proposal for the property. A coalition of religious organizations known as ECHO had proposed building a retirement complex on the property. To that end, ECHO signed a five-year lease on the Polo Grounds that included an option to buy the land.

When the property owner, Richard Hunter, agreed to sell to the county he made ECHO a satisfactory buy-out offer, said Bob Stoessel, a spokesman for the group.

In other action tomorrow, the supervisors:

—Will consider a request from Watsonville Mayor Betty Murphy to hold a joint meeting with the Watsonville City Council. Murphy said a meeting would give the council and board a chance to discuss mutual problems.

—Will consider a report that concludes that the county's current Bingo ordinance is adequate to control illegal Bingo operations. The adequacy of the law was questioned by members of Soquel High Boosters, Inc., which holds regular Bingo games.

—Decide whether to pay a share of the costs of hiring an attorney to defend the county and 12 other coastal jurisdictions in a legal battle with the Western Oil and Gas Association. The board will decide whether to give \$3,000 toward hiring Anthoney Beers, an expert in offshore oil-drilling litigation.

The legal battle began when the oil-industry association sued coastal cities and counties over anti-offshore oil-drilling ordinances. The association has challenged the constitutionality of the laws, which require voter approval of onshore facilities that support offshore oil drilling.

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