

Urban Renewal: What's It All About?

(Earl Newkirk, executive director of the city redevelopment agency, discusses urban renewal and redevelopment in these columns three times weekly. Suggestions, comments and queries are welcomed by the agency, whose office is in the city hall annex, 322 Church street, GA 6-0460.)

By Earl Newkirk

Again we have compiled quite a number of specific questions asked about urban renewal and redevelopment in general, and about the San Lorenzo Park project in particular. Most of these questions are new but some are similar to others we have attempted to answer in the past. We are including some "repeats" along with the new simply because certain questions seem to keep cropping up in one form or another from time to time.

Don't forget, if you have a specific question, just send us a note, or give us a phone call, tell us what it is you wish explained, and we will include it in the column.

Q—"Would the market for the land marked in the San Lorenzo park project for a first class motor-hotel be affected adversely should the proposed new hotel-convention center be provided by rehabilitation of the present Casa del Rey?"

A—No. On the contrary, the firm of E. S. Merriman and Sons of San Francisco, which has been engaged by your redevelopment agency as re-use appraisers and market analysts, indicated just the other day that the market for the proposed site in the San Lorenzo park project would be enhanced, if anything. Likewise the redevelopment agency's planning consultants, the Harold F. Wise Associates, have indicated this would not in their opinion, adversely affect the market. We'll devote more space to this subject in a future column.

Q—"The redevelopment agency held a public hearing in September. I understand there will be another held by the agency on the redevelopment plan. Has the date been set? If so, when will the hearing be held?"

A—The next — and final — public hearing required by California law to be held by the redevelopment agency is scheduled for December 21, the eve of the anniversary of last year's floods. It will be in the city council chambers at the city hall, 809 Center street, at 7:30 p.m. Official notice of this public hearing will appear in The Sentinel once each week during the four weeks preceding the date of the hearing. This of-

ficial notice will first appear in this paper today.

Q—"When will the city council have public hearings? Will it have more than one public hearing on the redevelopment plan?"

A—The city council is required by law to have one public hearing on the San Lorenzo park project. No date has been set by the council as yet. No doubt the council will schedule its public hearing as soon as possible after the redevelopment agency has had its hearing and made its recommendations to them. Just as in the case of the redevelopment agency, the California community redevelopment law requires that official public notice of such a hearing must be published in a local newspaper. The council is required to publish this notice for three consecutive weeks prior to the hearing. Incidentally, after the hearing by your redevelopment agency, a copy of the proposed redevelopment plan and of the recommendations of your agency must be given to the planning commission as well as sent to the city council. The planning commission must then review the proposed plan and transmit its

Deputy Sheriff Ed Reeves and Sergeant Bob Mondell of the sheriff's office stand guard as prisoners in the Santa Cruz county jail move into the mobile X-ray unit for chest X-rays. The X-raying of the incarcerated men is a service to the community since the incidence of tuberculosis in the population of jails has been found to be 10 times that of the general population.

recommendations to the city council also before the council can have its hearing.

Q—"Does the redevelopment agency still propose to commence acquisition by no later than next spring?"

A—Yes, the redevelopment agency anticipates to be able to begin actual acquisition of properties no later than early next spring, unless it becomes possible to acquire earlier by means of the state loan we have mentioned before.

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