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Special Drainage

District Formed

Property owners in the Soquel-Capitola area can expect a tax increase ranging up to 25¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation as the result of the formation of a special drainage district.

The area is known as Zone 5 of the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is bounded by Soquel Creek, Rodeo Gulch and Soquel Drive.

In moving to form the district, Supervisor Dan Forbus commented, "It is badly needed and long overdue."

As explained by the public works department, the purpose of the zone is to establish two drainage systems at a total estimated cost of \$900,000.

The first system will be designed to drain the area easterly of 41st avenue lying between Opal Cliff Drive and Grace Street.

System B will drain the area generally north of Portola Drive and west to 41st Street.

The public works department said formation of the zone gives it the right to enter private channels, maintain them and improve the drainage flow. Maintenance would consist of a weed abatement program, clearing logs from the channel and removing snags.

Financing and construction would be by building fees, contributions from developers, and taxes.

The Capitola City Council and the Soquel Creek Water

District gave prior approval to the zone plan, according to D.A. Porath, county public works director.

Porath said the area had an assessed valuation of \$14,000. He estimated the annual maintenance cost at \$16,000 which would necessitate a 12¢ tax levy. State laws sets the maximum tax rate at 25¢.

Flood Prevention + Control