

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

Monday, June 2, 1969

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## Soquel Creek

# Dirty Water Scraps Dam Plans

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The dam on Soquel Creek will probably not be built after all.

Capitola City Manager Ryder Ray said today he received a letter from the State Department of Parks and Recreation telling the city is must first get clearance from the county health department stating "that the water in Soquel Creek is safe and unpolluted for public use before the city may request from this department permission to install the dam."

Since the state owns the beach property on which the

dam is built, the department's decision will stick.

The letter was sent to the city shortly after the Capitola City Council voted "hesitantly" by a 3-to-2 margin to build the dam, despite the county health department's recommendation that it be closed because of high fecal coliform count.

The city last year asked the county to make tests of the waterway. The county last week released results it had received from the tests, some of which showed the count was more than twice the "recommended standard" of 200 for fecal coliform.

Ray said the city still may have two alternatives to build

the dam, but doubted if either would be used.

One would be to post the dam as unsafe for bathing, and allow boating to take place there. This, however, would require a great amount of policing, and irritate many of the citizens and visitors, Ray said.

A second alternative would be to build the dam off state property, north of the bridge, Estimating construction of a flume for such a project would cost the city about \$10,000, Ray doubted that this would get much support.

Said County Environmental Health Department head Ray Talley this morning, "We did

not claim 'sour grapes' and solicit the state for their support on our recommendation. We know this will make many Capitola residents upset. We do feel there is a definite hazard when the creek is dammed and there is body contact with water, and felt we were obligated to give the recommendation was did for safety purposes."

The state parks letter to the city stated, "Capitola will have to have a formal agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation before installing such a dam to block Soquel Creek, in order to form a freshwater swimming pool on Capitola State Beach."