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Residents traveling on East Natoma heading out of town toward El Dorado Hills have noticed a lot of construction activity near Folsom Prison. The road work will consist of a widened road

and signalization for the new prison road, which will serve both the current Folsom Prison and the new facility.

SMUD Hikes Rates 14 Percent

Residents in Folsom and Orangevale will be facing a 14 percent increase in their SMUD bills beginning Nov. 1.

If 1986 proves to be another bad year for either hydroelectricity or the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant, then residents may be facing another such increase next year.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District board of directors approved the rate hike, which takes in all of its district, on Sept. 24. Originally, SMUD staff had proposed a 20 percent increase in August, then trimmed the requested rate hike to 17 percent.

The increase was designed to help the utility weather a bad economic year, according to Frank M. Tindal, controller for SMUD.

Tindal said that the utility could experience financial trouble unless a rate increase was granted. The 14 percent figure hinges upon Rancho Seco running at 73 percent of capacity all year and an abundance of hydroelectric power.

According to Tindal, SMUD's 1985 budget predicted net revenues of \$21.8 million, but staff has estimated that, in reality, revenues will only reach \$8.9 million.

Tindal said that revenue loss puts SMUD in a bind regarding covering its debts.

Some SMUD officials have attacked the 14 percent increase as too low and too optimistic considering Rancho Seco's track record.

Board member Ann Taylor disagreed with the 14 percent increase calling it "unrealistic."

The increase is tied to the Rancho Seco facility operating efficiently. The facility has been shut down since March, and its longest run without interruption was 94 days in 1980.

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Barricade Will Be Installed

A new barricade will soon be installed by city crews along Greenback Lane at the intersection of American River Canyon Drive.

According to a memo issued by Public Services Director Bill Kime, supplies for the barricade have been ordered.

Reflective signs will be installed as well to increase driver awareness of the intersection. Kime said

City Council Decides To Put Corporation Yard Up For Sale

After more than two hours of discussion, with residents urging the Folsom City Council to keep its corporation yard, council members voted 3-2 to put the 18-acre parcel up for sale.

Following the meeting, however, most councilmen admitted that the asking price of more than \$3 million would most likely discourage most, if not all, buyers.

As one councilman put it, since the zoning on the parcel has not changed, the buyer would essentially be purchasing a \$3 million corporation yard with an old city dump in the center.

A study was recently done for the city by consultants citing the best use of the parcel

and its value accordingly. Four alternatives were presented, including residential-office mix, health club, commercial, and hotel-resort facility with a small park.

Other alternatives available to the council were to do nothing with the site or to negotiate a possible trade for a fully built corporation yard elsewhere in the city.

Public testimony supported keeping the site, which rests along the banks of the Negro Bar recreation area.

June Chan, representing members of the Folsom Historical Society and the Sutter Street Merchants Association, called for the council to develop the land in a "dignified way," since many historical sites are in the area.

However, resident Bernie Diefenderfer voiced his disapproval regarding the \$24,000 study which targets the parcel's best use.

"Why is the city paying \$24,000 for a study on a piece of property that you're going to sell? Why is the city in the business of private industry?" asked Diefenderfer.

Diefenderfer said that he was opposed to the city putting out any more money until it discovered if it was actually possible to sell the parcel, since it once was the site of a city land fill and a sewage treatment facility.

Dave Mansfield, city manager, said that a land usability study would have to be completed as well as a survey before the land could be put up for sale. "We can't sell a piece of land that is unbuildable," Mansfield said.

Park Commissioner Vince Adeszko told the council that he felt that more community input and study was needed before any decision could be made. He also said that the Park Commission should have a chance to look at the issue.

"I see no reason to rush ahead," said Adeszko. "Don't wrap the land in the hands of a few people; consider it for all of the people of Folsom."

Resident Jennifer Lane encouraged the council to consider the "do-nothing" approach. "We love that area. We go fishing, and there is lots of room," she said. "There are people who use that area a lot, and we appreciate it."

Councilman Dave Ferrier said that the present corporation yard, however, was a "disgrace to the city" and that the cost of removing the buildings would be "quite high."

He also said that he did not favor a lease agreement and did not agree with the appraisal based on a land plan for the entire area, even land the city does not own.

Councilman Al Englehart said that he would look for a trade for a new, fully built corporation yard and throw out the four alternatives presented in the study.

Ferrier made a motion that the city send out for bids on the parcel, with an asking price of \$3.2 million as estimated in the study under the alternative which proposes a hotel-resort-type facility.

If no bids surface on the corporation yard, then the matter will return to council again for further action.

The city is not obligated to accept any of the offers for the land, but Ferrier said that the response would tell the city if the appraisal is realistic or if any developer is interested.

"At least this way we didn't

take a \$24,000 study and do nothing with it," said Ferrier.

Councilmen voting with the proposal were Engelhart and Ferrier, with Scheidegger and Hannaford casting "no" votes. The deciding vote was made by Mayor Rod Carmody.

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Calling Publicity Persons--Come To PR Workshop

The Folsom Telegraph will hold a workshop for publicity persons who have been appointed to positions with their schools, clubs and other organized groups within the community.

The purpose of the workshop is to give tips to those in charge of publicity on how to write a

press release, how to call for a photographer and, generally, how to work with the community newspaper.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 4 p.m. at the newspaper office, 825 Sutter St. in Folsom.

For more information, call Kris Angell at 985-2581.



Donald Tomlinson gets a hand from his wife, Kerry, as he prepares to ride in the bike-a-thon for St. Jude's Sunday. About the same number of riders as last year participated in the fund-

raising event. The course included a one-mile route around Theodore Judah Elementary School. For more pictures, turn to Page 3.

Photo - Cois Foster