

Details Of Airport Renewal Project Aired

"It's not really a partnership with the federal government. This is strictly a project of local government. The federal government's relationship is like that of a bank."

That's how C. Russell Sloniger, assistant executive director of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance, describes the new relationship between Torrance and Washington, D. C. Sloniger says the city—through its Redevelopment Agency will make the decisions.

The decisions involve land—and people—at the west end of the Torrance Municipal Airport where the city hopes to remove "blighted" conditions and establish a safety zone around airport runways. Known as the Meadow Park Redevelopment Project, the work will be done through the federal government's urban renewal

program. Bills will be split between the city—which pays a third of the costs—and the federal government.

Tentative boundaries for the project are the airport, Pacific Coast Highway, Hawthorne Avenue, and Lomita Boulevard. Preliminary plans call for the removal of all housing in the area and the development of an industrial park with land being leased to industrial firms for development.

The decision to participate in the urban renewal program was made last November when the city and residents of the area began to search for a solution to problems caused by the nearness of the airport.

The City Council established itself as the Redevelopment Agency and named City Manager Edward J. Ferraro executive director. Charles M. Shartle, planning director

for the city, was named deputy executive director.

City officials prepared a planning and survey application, first step in an urban renewal program, and submitted it to the Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA) in mid-February. An office was located at 23870 Hawthorne Ave.—within the project boundaries, and a small staff went to work.

The application was approved some two months later with only slight modification. A grant of \$225,000 was authorized for the initial phase of the project by the HHFA. A contract was signed June 16.

Time is a prime consideration, City Councilmen declared. "We don't want any grass to grow here," Mayor Albert Isen said. With that, the program was put on a crash basis and a time schedule developed which Sloniger

describes as "very, very tight."

People must be relocated in housing which is safe, clean, and reasonable. The Redevelopment Agency must acquire all land in the area for the project and a plan which reflects the "highest and best use of the land" must be designed.

Councilmen, staff members, and residents of the city wasted no time. One of the chief disadvantages of federal participation, Sloniger said, is delay, so the city moved to eliminate the delay.

An early acquisition program was established so hardship cases might be considered at the earliest possible time. To date, the city has approved the purchase of three parcels in the area—all hardship cases. The early acquisition is being done with city funds, but they will be

repaid when final approval is granted by the federal government.

At the same time, a Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Improvement was established. The 21-member group represents a cross-section of every segment of the city. William Uerkwitz, former president of the Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, is chairman.

The citizens' committee reviews hardship cases in the early acquisition program, considers possible uses of the land, and generally advises the councilmen, who as agency directors, must make the final decisions.

Councilmen established themselves as the agency board because they wanted to "maintain close direction and control of the redevelopment activities." To do so, they meet once each week to

consider agency business, discuss plans, and make policy decisions. Meetings are usually held during the Tuesday council sessions, but as time moves forward, separate meetings may be required.

To relocate families now living in the area, R. C. Wheeler has started interviewing residents to determine their needs. Wheeler, who is the director of relocation and property management, also is searching for suitable housing.

Other officials have begun structural surveys in the area, and the council, acting as the agency directors, has hired an appraiser to conduct the first acquisition appraisal. At least one more appraisal will be made before the project is approved.

Just last week, a contract was awarded for the boundary survey part of the program to establish property

lines. A marketability survey—used to determine just what the "highest and best" use of the land will be—is due July 23.

The project plans are due to be completed in November this year. Those plans will be submitted to the HHFA in December for a review and that is expected to take about five months. Following HHFA approval of the project, the Redevelopment Agency and the city will hold public hearings and prepare formal plans for the project, and, if all goes as planned, the Redevelopment Agency will begin the actual work of relocating families and purchasing land in January, 1967.

Development of the new project will begin almost at the same time, and the hope is that one day a major industrial complex can be built.

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Six Jailed After Gunfight Climaxes Party-Crash Row

Bold Planning Provided Water, Lions Club Told

Bold, long-range planning fully supported by the people of Southern California has brought water to this semi-arid region that has made it one of the world's greatest urban areas, members of the West Torrance Lions Club were told Thursday.

Speaking before them at the Bridle Path Restaurant, 22252 Palos Verdes Blvd., was Marvin Stephens, Metropolitan Water District public relations representative.

"This same kind of vision with the backing of the people of the District assures us that Southern California will continue to have all the water it needs for its inevitable future growth," he said.

STEPHENS also screened the district's color motion picture, "Billion Gallons a Day," which tells the dramatic story of the building and operation of the Colorado River Aqueduct, which has been named one of the seven engineering wonders of the United States.

The first water from Northern California under the

State Water Plan will be available about 1972, Stephens said. The district expects to receive 2,000,000 acre-feet of water annually from the state.

He reported that this should meet any possible shortages in the Colorado River supply for at least the next 25 years. He also reported that Senators Thomas Kuchel and George Murphy have introduced a measure

Hunt For Rob-Rape Terrorist

A 29-year-old clerk was criminally assaulted Friday morning by a lone bandit who escaped through a downtown alley with \$275.

Torrance police said the bandit entered a downtown Torrance office about 11 a.m. and ordered the woman clerk into a rear room. Brandishing an automatic pistol, the bandit forced her to lie on the floor.

He bound the woman's hands and feet and stuffed cotton in her mouth, officers said, then ransacked the front office. The bandit then returned to the rear office, untied the woman's feet, and assaulted her.

The bandit, described as in his early 20s and of Mexican descent, left the building through a side entrance.

Aerospace Executive Heads Airport Board

Torrance Airport Commissioners elected John Blaisdell, an aerospace industrial executive, as chairman of the commission during a Thursday meeting.

Blaisdell, who has been a member of the commission for a year, succeeds Joe Doss as chief officer of the group. City Councilmen recently voted to enlarge the Airport

into the present Congress which would require a study of available sources of water to supplement the Colorado River's flow.

IN ADDITION, he pointed out, Metropolitan Water District is active in efforts to solve the sea water conversion problem. The district recently signed a contract to participate with the Department of Interior and the Atomic Energy Commission in a feasibility study looking toward the construction of the largest desalting plant in the world.

The plant under study would be capable of producing from 50 to 150 million gallons of water a day, enough to supply a population of from 250,000 to 750,000. It would also be capable of producing between 150 and 750 megawatts of electric power.

Bank Executive Attends USC

Donald J. Sowers, 2004 Ernest Ave., Redondo Beach, has completed attendance at the 1965 Summer Executive Program in the University of Southern California's Graduate School of Business Administration.

Sowers, assistant vice president with Bank of America in Los Angeles, was one of 25 enrolled in the month-long program.



ANDREW TULLY To Tour Europe

Area Youth Will Sing In Europe

Andrew Tully, a 1965 graduate of South High School, is one of 65 young men and women who will leave this month for a tour of Europe with the Southern California Youth Chorale.

Tully, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Tully of 234 Camino del Campo, is a member of the Honor Choir of the Southern California Vocal Association and winner of the 1965 Spartan-Laurel music award at South High. He also was named best choir member at South High.

Director of the South High Pep Band, he was a member of the "Imperials," a local dance band, "Paegan Stage Band," and Torrance All-City Honor Band. He is an active member of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church choir in Redondo Beach.

THE SOUTHERN California Youth Chorale is composed of a select group of young men and women from the Honor Choir of the vocal association. K. Gene Simmond, chairman of the music department at Arroyo High School, El Monte, is director of the Chorale.

The Chorale has been invited to participate in a workshop on Renaissance Music in Florence, Italy, Aug. 4. Concerts are scheduled in London, Paris, and Lucerne.

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Rifle, Pistols Held by Police

Six youths ranging in age from 18 to 20 were arrested by Torrance police early yesterday following an exchange of gunfire in the West Torrance area.

Police confiscated a small arsenal of weapons after the early morning row broke out at a west Torrance party.

Five of the youths were charged with suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder and suspicion of possession of narcotics. The five also were charged with shooting at an inhabited dwelling. The sixth youth was charged with firing a gun at a vehicle.

Arrested were:

- Gregory Charles Hokus, 19, 19324 Caney Ave., Gardena;
- Ronald Carl Scaffol, 19, 15447 Harvard Ave.;
- James Lloyd McGugan, 19, 1667 W. 208th St.;
- Isao Bob Yoshida, 20, 17130 S. Western Ave.;

Kenneth Michael, 20, 19313 Entradero St.; and, Ted Vionia, 18, 3111 W. 180th St.

Officers said they first received a call about a possible gun fight at 1:35 a.m. When a patrol arrived, however, the suspects had left the area.

The second call came at 2:51 a.m., police said, and four units responded and arrested all six youths.

The fight apparently started when Ron Cotta attempted to eject unwanted guests from a party at 4726 Deelane St. Police said Cotta apparently fired a rifle into the floor.

"If you want to play with guns, we'll get some guns, too," Cotta was told.

Five of the youths returned to the area about 2:45 a.m., police said, and began firing guns at the house from

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New Auditorium Plan Too Small, Committee Says

Members of the city's auditorium advisory committee voted Thursday to recommend a major increase in the size of the proposed facilities.

Mrs. Lowell O'Brien, public relations chairman, said the committee will recommend that a 5,000-seat main arena be built, rather than the 3,000-seat facility recommended by Economics Research Associates in their study of the auditorium complex.

The advisory committee also wants the size of the theater-auditorium increased from 1,000 seats to a minimum of 2,500 seats. It suggested that the little theater be doubled in size—to 400 seats—and that it be built so unused seats could be partitioned off from the theater.

Additional needs in the city's recreation department program, and the pattern of past growth in Torrance and surrounding areas were prime factors in the committee's decision, Mrs. O'Brien said.

"Torrance has tripled its population in the past 15 years," she said, "and the



DECORATED . . . Capt. William B. Forrest (left), 4515 Highgrove Ave., and Capt. Lester B. Wing, 3629 W. 182nd St., have been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for flying as navigators with active duty airmen to Viet Nam. Capt. Forrest, a Torrance elementary school principal, and Capt. Wing, who is employed at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, are Air Force reservists assigned to a unit at March Air Force Base near Riverside. The two men voluntarily participated in an airlift of supplies to Viet Nam.