

Proper Location Key to Industry

To the Editor:

History is in the making in neighboring San Luis Obispo County. The Sierra Club and the San Luis Obispo South County Chamber of Commerce golf course committee are speaking the same language.

A recent article in a San Luis Obispo County newspaper (SLO Telegram-Tribune, June 9th, page 4) is headed "Arroyo Golfers Lose to Santa Maria Truck-er"--all about whether or not the Arroyo Grande City Council should uphold a commercial zoning in an area that the South County Chamber of Commerce golf course committee proposes developing for a golf course and subdivision.

Spokesman for the golf course committee, John Hurst of Arroyo Grande, is quoted as using the same arguments that the Sierra Club has been using for 73 years. I quote the newspaper:

"He said the zoning perpetuated undesirable areas and that the golf course committee was not attracting industry, but in its proper location."

This is exactly what John Muir, distinguished botanist with a beard, said in 1892 to the stockmen who were so mad when he wanted to make a national park out of Yosemite Valley. He said:

"This area of the Sierra Nevada is more suited for a great park than for pasture. We in the Sierra Club are not against stockmen making a living -- but in the proper location."

The Sierra Club won that battle--and Yosemite National Park is saved for all generations as one of the crown jewels of our national park system.

This is exactly what the eminent mining attorney Will Colby said when he was a prominent officer of the Sierra Club in 1909 during the great fight over Hetch-

city of San Francisco:

"Hetch-Hetchy is an immortal canyon, filled with the music of waterfalls, laced with green forests, a second Yosemite. And we are going to need a second Yosemite someday for the thousands, perhaps millions, who will come. We of the Sierra Club are not against water for the city of San Francisco; we are not against dams. We are for dams--in the proper location."

Well -- the battle of Hetch-Hetchy was lost by the Sierra Club. But what prophetic words were those that Will Colby spoke back in 1909. A second Yosemite is needed today. The city of San Francisco gets its water elsewhere, anyway.

This is exactly what the Sierra Club is saying now in San Luis Obispo County about the lovely Nipomo Dunes and the industrial zoning:

"Industry does not belong in this area that is uniquely scenic with its wind - sculptured white sands and its green flowering glades, an area which is rich scientifically, which offers historic interest, and which has the potential of a wider variety of recreation than any other single state park and recreation area in the entire state of California. We in the Sierra Club are not against industry. We are not against power plants, piers conveyors and factories. We like a comfortable tax base! We approve of industry--in the proper location."

The Sierra Club has been saying it for 73 years. Now the San Luis Obispo South County Chamber of Commerce golf course committee is saying it, too. History is in the making!

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