

Reservoir Plans Moving Along

By Jonathan Villar

News Editor

The Balboa Reservoir will go through major changes over the next five-to-six years as City College and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) have finalized plans for realignment and ownership of the land.

An agreement has been signed by City College and the PUC for the realignment of the property from the current north-south positioning to east-west parcels.

The western wing of the Phelan Campus is to stand in the eastern portion of the reservoir, which lies west of the current campus.

This memorandum of understanding was signed by both parties and passed through the Bureau of Land Management. New configurations on the reservoir will include the "Phelan Loop" at the southern edge of the

property where the college's Bookstore Auxiliary and the Ocean Ave. Fire Station are currently situated. Many of the new buildings including the new Community Performing, Cultural and Media Arts Center and a new student services building will be grouped along this end of the campus.

Neighborhood groups and the San Francisco Planning Dept. have expressed concerns regarding the areas to the north before Archbishop Riordan High School and the Sunnyside Neighborhood.

Much of the concern is centered around the need for more affordable housing and the need for integration into the neighborhood. The north and south basins of the reservoir are currently used as parking for City College students.

The PUC would use the new western parcel of the reservoir for underground water storage. They current-

ly do not have any plans for usage on top of the reservoir, although they do reserve the right for future activities. A bond measure for PUC Funding will go before San Francisco voters in November of 2002.

November Decision

San Francisco's general election in November will decide the fate of the project's budget and timeline, as \$13 million for the infrastructure and \$25 million for facilities are allotted in Measure A for the college's funding.

The initial structure phase of the project, including the environmental impact report and architectural/engineering renderings, would begin this year. This phase includes the removal of the middle berm between the basins to allow for realignment and grounds preparation.

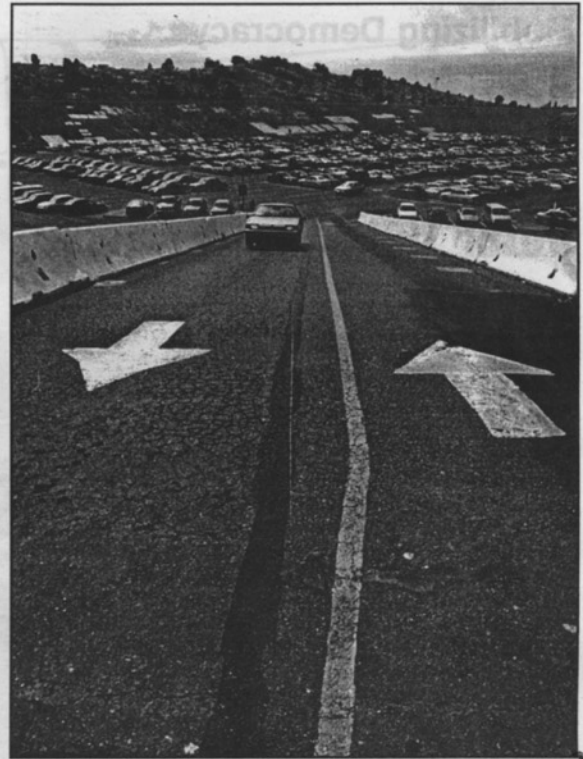
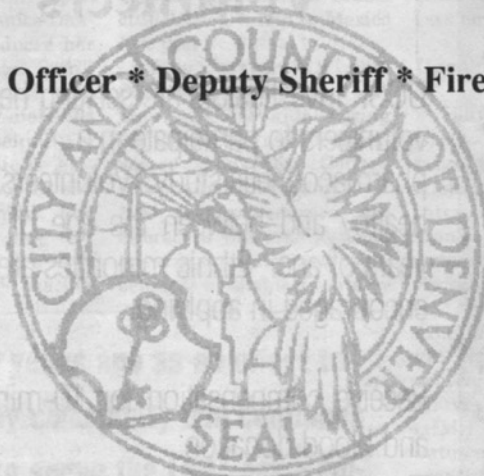


Photo by Daria Mueller

Major changes to the Balboa Reservoir and the neighboring area have been set in motion following the City College/PUC agreements.

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