

Complaints of 'Eyesores' Mount Here

Bernardi Committee Preparing Ordinance

Slowness in improving homes moved from freeway routes to other residential areas has drawn sharp criticism from City Council's building and safety committee. The committee, headed by Valley Councilman Ernani Bernardi, is working on a proposed city ordinance which would greatly tighten regulations now in effect.

Bernardi said yesterday at a committee meeting that a number of complaints have been received from neighbors about "eyesores" being moved into their area and months passing without something being done about them.

Expresses Concern

A Building and Safety Dept. spokesman told the committee that more than 60 such structures are on the department list, dating back to 1956. The spokesman said the majority of the partially improved structures are in the Valley.

Councilman Bernardi also expressed great concern over reports that some houses are being moved out of the path of one freeway and relocated in an area tentatively designated as a future freeway route.

He explained this probably will force the State Division of Highways to pay twice for the same structure.

But the primary concern of Bernardi's committee is to revise the regulations so the city can take matters into its own hands without having to wait two or three years for the issue to be settled in court.

Must Go to Court

The ordinance which the committee reportedly will propose for Council approval would set an absolute time limit of 180 days for the improvements to be completed, and if not done by that time the city would be authorized to either finish the remodeling or raze the building and clear the property, at the owner's expense.

Under present law the city, once its patience is exhausted, must turn the case over to the city attorney and legal steps are taken to force the property owner to comply with improvement orders or else clear the property.

Would Bolster Setup

Because of heavy loads in courts, this sometimes can take two or three years, Bernardi said.

The building and safety
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City Maps Clampdown on Freeway-Displaced Homes

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committee plans to propose the following timetable:

At the time a private resident or broker or other parties purchase a home up for sale, a permit must be obtained from the Building and Safety Dept. to move the house to a new location.

Filed with the request for permit must be a plot plan, complete with a list of improvements to be made on the structure.

Time allowed after issuance of the permit would be 120 days, with an automatic extension of 60 days.

This much of the proposal already is in effect. However, once the time extension is over, the city now has to go to court to get compliance.

Under the proposed ordinance in Bernardi's committee, the city would be allowed to either raze the structure or complete improvements, costs of which would be paid from a revolving fund to be set up and the city repaid from the bond posted by the property owner at time of purchase.

Bernardi explained that passage of the ordinance, as amendment to the building code, would set up a revolving fund of \$50,000 to be available as needed for improvement costs.

The city would be reimbursed, Bernardi explained, from the bond required from the property owner. The bond required would be 125% of the estimated cost of repairs, Bernardi said.

Here is an example of what can happen if a house is moved from one freeway route to another:

At the time a freeway route is adopted the State Division of Highways pays \$20,000 for

a home that is taken for the freeway. A price, many thousands less, is paid by a purchaser and the home is moved to a new location.

Some In Freeway Path

If the home is relocated in an area where another freeway is planned, chances are that the state will be called on again in a few years to pay a higher price for the home, depending of course on the amount of improvement having been made.

Bernardi said he had received reports of some homes being relocated in paths of future freeways, already tentatively adopted by the state.

It was reported to the committee that the state attitude is that funds are available to purchase rights-of-way and property only after freeway routes are officially adopted and that tentative adoption does not mean the route will be the same upon final adoption.

Graduation Party Set for Beginners by Square Feet

VAN NUYS—A graduation square dance party is being planned by the Square Feet for the beginners' class Saturday at 8 p.m.

The dance will be held at the club's new location, Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Playground, 14201 Huston St.

An "Indian Summer" theme has been chosen for the gala event. Refreshments will be served. Caller will be Art Leighton. All square dancers have been invited.

Syria plans a new dam on the Khabur River.