

Council moves to annex Bolsa Chica

By Robert Barker - 4-19-90
HUNTINGTON BEACH —

The city council voted unanimously Monday to launch annexation proceedings to shift the Bolsa Chica wetlands out of unincorporated Orange County territory and into city boundaries.

Annexation of the Bolsa Chica, a major stopping point for migrating birds on the Pacific Flyway, will pave the way for perhaps the largest restoration of wetlands in the nation, officials said.

Comprising 1,630 acres, Bolsa Chica will add about 10 percent to the city's land size of approximately 16,000 acres.

The projected 4,245 to 5,674 homes located on the bluffs or in areas away from wildlife, will mean a 7-percent boost in the city's population of about 190,000.

Clearing the decks for the request by Signal Landmark President Peter Denniston to annex the area was approval by the City Council last June of a Signal plan to restore 1,100 acres of wetlands and open space while

constructing homes on more than 400 acres.

Shirley Dettloff, former president of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica environmental organization that fought for nearly 15 years to save the wetlands, hailed the start of annexation.

"The wetlands is a laboratory in our own back yard," she said.

She called the compromise "a good plan" once Signal withdrew proposals for a navigable cut to the ocean and a 1,600-slip marina.

Officials said they expect the Local Agency Formation Com-
(Please see ANNEX/A4)

ANNEX

From A1 mission to give final approval for annexation by November 1991. The development project requires approval from the California Coastal Commission.

Resident Jolene Ford, though, chided officials for considering the major residential development in the face of California's water shortages.

"There will be 5,700 homes to water and 5,700 lawns to water,

10,000 cars to wash and 15,000 toilets to flush," she said.

"Either we have a water shortage or we don't. If we don't, don't ask me to conserve water or pay a 10-percent surcharge.

"Santa Barbara has water rationing, and they allow no building in Cambria. Yet we blithely go forward," she said.

Officials said the city will receive about \$500,000 a year in revenue from the project over expenses that it incurs.

