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Panel approves West Beach project

By Donna Reyes
Advertiser Staff Writer

The \$2 billion West Beach resort planned for Leeward Oahu cleared a major hurdle yesterday when the city Planning Commission unanimously approved facilities for the controversial project.

Possible water service problems stemming from the proposed residential and resort community had been the major stumbling block for planning commissioners. But their concerns were appeased when a city water specialist told them there would be plenty of water available for both West Beach and the Waianae Coast.

Developer Herbert Horita plans to build the 640-acre project which would feature

houses, hotels, parks, restaurants, a shopping center, and a marina.

Called a "second Waikiki" by some, West Beach is planned for the Ewa area between Campbell Industrial Park and Kahe Point.

The Planning Commission yesterday approved the details on water wells, roads, sewer mains, storm drains, bus stations and an elementary school, which are included in the West Beach development. Earlier that day, at 1 a.m., they had heard the last of a barrage of testimony at a public hearing that droned on for hours. Nearly 600 people had packed the Tuesday night hearing to either support or oppose the resort.

Those opposed to the development feared it would deplete

the Waianae Coast of precious water. They were also concerned about water pollution.

But Herbert Minakami, chief of the planning and engineering division of the city-county Board of Water Supply, told commissioners there will be more than enough water to go around.

Three new wells with an estimated potential of 4 million gallons per day are planned for the Makaha valley to serve the entire Waianae Coast, Minakami said. Two more wells with an estimated total output of 2 million gallons per day also will be drilled in Waianae, he added.

"That's a total potential of 6 million gallons of water per day in new water supplies for the Makaha-Waianae area," Minakami said. The five wells should

begin serving the area in the late 1980s, he said, noting that the wells were planned several years ago to provide an adequate water supply "to take care of new developments and farmers' needs." In other words, the wells were not planned as a result of the West Beach proposal, he said.

Existing water systems currently provide 4 million gallons per day for the Waianae Coast.

In addition, Campbell Estates plans to coordinate development of a 20-million-gallons-per-day water supply for West Beach and other nearby developments, Minakami said.

This pleased planning commissioners.

The West Beach development proposal now goes to the City Council.