Oakland's solid waste plan still afloat

Signif writer

| Watching the development of the proposed Coulties and Proposed Coulties

. .but Headlee threatens suit on 'no vote' bonds

By Pat Murphy staff,writer

Oakland officials may yet avold a legal confrontation over allegations they are violating the state Constitution by not allowing residents to vote or junding its proposed sold waste program, according to commissioner Roy Rewold, chairman of the board of commissioners.

ot commissioners.
"I, believe we can still talk to Mr. (Richard H.) Headlee," Rewold told the county's Solid Waste Task Force Tuesday, "But we won't know for a while"

Tresday. "But we won't know for a white. Tresday." But we won't know for a white. When the state of the state

million addition to the courthouse.

HEADLEE, AUTHOR of the 1978
Headlee Tax Amendment and chairman of a watchdog organization called Taxpayers United, claims selling those bonds without a vote of the people is unconstitutional.

"The Constitution requires that bonds, like tax increases, must be approved by a majority vote property of the people. Headle said in their county of the said in the county of the said of the said in the county of the said in the said in the county of the said in the said



'I'm not that committed to the computer center or the courthouse addition. But I am committed to the solid waste plan and I still hope we can convince Mr. Headlee not to sue over it."

— Roy Rewold county board chairman

IN A PHONE conversation Tues-day, Headlee said he initially agreed not to intervene when the county tried to sell solid waste bonds.

tried to sell solld waste bonds.

"Our discussions convinced me
they didn't intend to circumvent the
will of the people (by not holding a
vote.)." Headlee sald.
Headlee sald he changed his mind,
however, when Oakland also announced it would also sell so-called
limited obligation bonds to finance
to said willing econviter cepter and

limited obligation bonds to finance the \$10 million computer center and the \$80 million addition to the court-bouse.

"It's sheer arrogance on the part of county officials to think they don't need a vote of the people before committing tax money."



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-— Richard Headles Taxpayers United chairman

Agency on aging sets public hearing

comb. Monroe, St. Clair and Washsender providers and other interestive providers and other interestive providers are solved to attend a packe, hearing sponsored by the high section of the process of th

analysis

\$470 million program designed to handle trash well into the 21st centu-

Captains Daniel T. Murphy and Roy Rewold, county executive and Roy Rewold, county executive and choirman of the Oakland Board of Choirman of Choirm

HERE ARE SOME signs of smooth sailing:

• Bids on the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) came in about 45 percent under the anticipated cost about \$15.5 million, rather than the expected \$30 million.

Navigator Roger Smith, director

expected \$30 million.
Navigator Roger Smith, director
of Oakland's solid waste unit, told
the county's Solid Waste Task Force
that lower-than-expected bids would
result in lower-than-expected tipping fees.

• The 90-day period for public comment on the solid waste program (known as the 641 plan) elapsed at 6 pages as the 642 plan) elapsed at 6 pages as the 642 plan elapsed at 642 plan el 642 plan elapsed at 642 plan elapsed

in Abburn hills, directly west—and upwind—of upscale Rochester Hills.

We received a sumber of complaints, said Commissioner Donald Bishop, R-Rochester. "But only one two about the incheration."

• Oakland's solid waste plan has been endorsed—incinerator and all—by the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

That endorsement is mostly symbolic. But it seems to weaken opposition based on environmental concerns.

cerns. But while these developments are

favorable, Oakland's solid waste program is still a long way from port. Titanic was cruising along too, until it reached the icebergs.

Oakland's plan seems to be cruis-ing along. But there's a sense of fore-boding. Reports of icebergs are in-creasing.

IEEE'S A FEW:

• Richard H. Headlee, chairman of the watchdog group Taxpayers United and author of the tax amendment, has notified county officials be will sue if they don't allow residents to vote on the solid waste plan, the 10 million computer center and the 180 million addition to the court-plants.

"BURNING is not the answer," one Rochester Hills couple wrote to Rewold, their county commissioner. Their letter also contained the hint of a politically Capitains Murphy and Rewold.

"BURNING is not the answer," one Rochester Hills couple wrote to Rewold, their county contained the hint of a political threat against Rewold without first getting voter approval." (See related story)

Rewold and others say them come one!!"

Rewold and others say they velcome public comment on the solid
waste plan. But they candidly
predict voters will shoot the solid
waste plan down if they get the
chance.

 A story in The Oakland Press Sunday reported that County Execu-tive Murphy — who has guided the waste program since it was launched — received more than \$20,000 in received more than \$20,000 m contributions from companies that could get substantial contracts if the plan is implemented.

legal. But the mere hint of a possible conflict of interest could stir the po-litical waters well into 1992 when the executive is up for re-election.

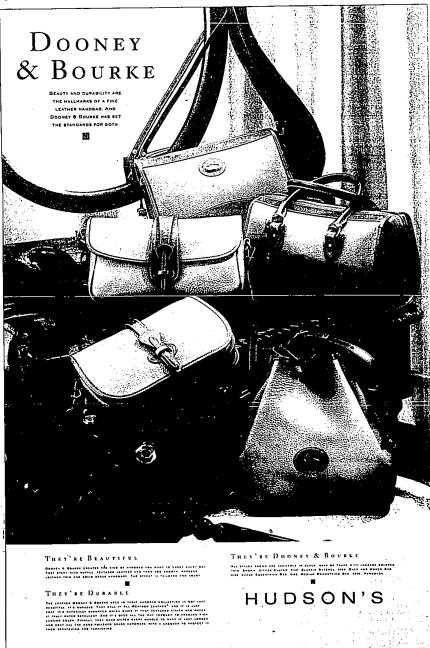
There are growing indications that opposition from Rochester Hills — downwind neighbors of the proposed incinerator in neighboring Auburn Hills — Is surging.

Chairman James G. Meenahan sald the committee is also prepared to meet next week as members re-view solid waste plans to be submit-ted to state officials for review.

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