

Orange County

Council to Consider Monorail Franchise

**Exclusive 99-Year Permit to Be Asked;
Former Mayor Boosts Transit Plan**

ANAHEIM — The construction of a high-speed monorail system connecting Disneyland, Anaheim Stadium, Knott's Berry Farm and other key points could be a tremendous asset to Anaheim and might serve as the hub of a giant Southland mass rapid transit network, according to Rex Coons, former mayor of this city.

Coons — a leader in bringing the California Angels to Anaheim and in developing Anaheim Stadium and the Anaheim Convention Center — said he has discussed the monorail with its chief proponents.

Anaheim Rapid Transit System (ARTS) will ask the City Council Tuesday for an exclusive 99-year monorail franchise.

Financier Heads ARTS

Earl J. Welch of Los Angeles, financier and land developer, heads ARTS. Attorney for Welch and others as yet unnamed is Martin M. Ostrow of Los Angeles.

Welch also was a principal in Duorail Aerospace Rapid Transit Corp., which came to City Council in December of 1963 with a similar monorail proposal.

At that time, however, the city was asked to sponsor a federal demonstration grant for the estimated \$21 million project. Councilmen, with Coons as mayor, refused to get tied up with a federal transaction.

"Welch has decided the idea is still good enough and has revived it," Coons said. "As far as I know the franchise re-

quest before was denied because of the federal funds.

"The application for a franchise was not denied. Most councilmen seemed to feel it would be a good thing, but that it should be developed privately.

"Welch now says he has the private financing. He is asking for the franchise to protect his group while the system is developed.

"As far as I am concerned the development of the system on private capital is a good thing. It would benefit the community. Certainly no one is going to invest some thing like \$21 million—and I suspect that still is a reasonable figure—unless logistic and feasibility studies show they can make money.

"If these studies show it would be a money-maker then it would be a tremendous asset to the city and, if properly engineered, could be the hub for a rapid transit system for Southern California.

"Welch does not feel the system would have an adverse effect on the jitney system that is coming into the city. The jitney system could feed the ARTS stations for the long hauls."