

METRO NEWS

BEACHES

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The dispute evolved into a standoff between two huge governmental bodies, with each seeking to use the popularity of the beaches—Dan Blocker, Las Tunas, Redondo, Manhattan, Point Dume, Royal Palms, Topanga and Malibu Surfride—as a trump card.

But the quarter's outcome was felt by people such as Mike Dyri, a Manhattan Beach surfer who wandered up to one of the newly installed state lifeguards Wednesday and asked where his old county friends were and whether the new guards knew enough about local waters to save his life if a mishap occurred.

"Usually, the same lifeguards have worked these towers for years, and they really know these beaches," said Dyri, 25, his dark, wet hair and boy-suit glistening in the sun. "I don't know what this change is going to mean."

Getting displaced from their traditional turf also clearly upset many county lifeguards, members of a tanned and toned corps that has passed into legend as the premier lifeguards in the world, an immense rescue and lionization on the popular TV show "Baywatch," which has fans worldwide.

"Here it is a gorgeous, sunny, beautiful day—the epitome of Southern California—and instead I'm feeling sad that it's my last day here," said senior lifeguard Bob Janis, 44, as he kept watch Tuesday on a cove of surfers bobbing offshore at Surfside Beach.

"It's a dark day for us," said Janis, wearing aviator sunglasses and the guard's trademark red Speedo trunks. "I'm just glad to have a job. Some guys are getting laid off, some guys are getting demoted."

The changing of the guards along about a third of the county's coastline also raised questions about staffing levels, safety and beach maintenance.

State Parks and Recreation Director Donald W. Murphy pledged a high level of service at a Manhattan Beach news conference Wednesday morning.

"We now manage about 250 miles of California coastline," Murphy said. "Our staff has spent months of on-site review of the county's operations during both the summer and off-season. We manage populated areas like Huntington Beach, Bolsa Chica and South Carlsbad, so I think there should be every confidence in the state's ability to provide these services here."

Murphy said that initially it will cost the state about \$4 million to operate the beaches but that state officials expect services to cost about 25% less than the county operation.

Members of the California Conservation Corps will assist in initial maintenance efforts at the beaches, but state officials hinted that they will seek to make major improvements in how the beaches are maintained, including landscaping and signs.

But it was immediately clear that the new caretakers must still win the trust of much of the Southern California beach-going public.

One man interrupted his morning bicycle ride on the Strand to direct this comment at Murphy. "I think this is the worst thing that could have happened."

The state parks director gave the

into the multi-agency swift-water rescue program. She worried that the effort may dissolve.

"This will create a jurisdictional mess not unlike that which we only recently resolved along the inland flood control channels, where victims found themselves caught not only in the deadly torrent, but in a jurisdictional limbo between uncooperative and disinterested agencies," she said.

State lifeguards already work such treacherous waters as the American River in Northern California, Murphy responded, vowing to integrate state lifeguards with local rescue operations.

Some critics of the transfer also were concerned that state lifeguards' peace officer status—unlike county lifeguards, they have the power to arrest lawbreakers—would create friction on the county's crowded urban beaches. Murphy, however, downplayed potential conflict.

"The reason we do that is because the public tells us safety is their No. 1 concern," Murphy said. "The guards are not trained to be adversarial."

Still, it was a melancholy day for the men and women who work as county lifeguards. The county's deputy fire chief, Stephen Sherrill, said 19 lifeguards and three lieutenants will lose their jobs.

"We gave them the phone number of the state," he said dryly. "Sure it's a sad day. We've been operating the beaches for 40 years with the intent of unifying services, and this creates a patchwork."

Janis, who said he has rescued hundreds of people over the years, said that while most county guards are qualified emergency medical technicians, most state guards have only basic first aid training.

He also noted that the county has a policy of keeping swimmers, kayakers and body boarders away from surfing areas as a safety measure. But at Leo Carillo State Beach, he said, the state allows the groups to mix, compromising safety.

County guard Lt. Warren Rigby, another veteran, said he was "reality devastated" by the state takeover.

"We're really proud of our organization," said Rigby, who has been a county guard since 1974. "This makes you feel you're really losing something."

Another county guard, Jay Hopkins, 32, was more philosophical about the changeover, saying that state guards will do a good job—if there are enough of them to adequately patrol the beaches.

"They're water-men, they're good lifeguards," said Hopkins, a 13-year veteran of the county force. "It all comes down to coverage and staffing. If they staff the beaches like we do, the county's going to save some money. If they don't, they might lose some people."

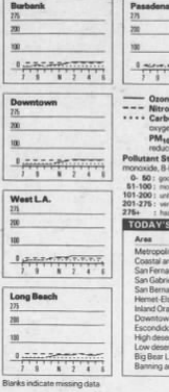
Rigby said the county has agreed to provide assistance—advice and physical backup—to the state guards for a month after they arrive.

Ron Schaffer, superintendent of the state's newly formed Santa Monica Bay District, said his office intends to adhere to county practices until state officials further assess the situation.

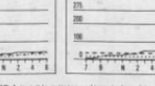
For state lifeguard Dan Chantz, transferred from Huntington Beach and now patrolling Manhattan Beach sands where he grew up, the controversy over the transfer

WEDNESDAY'S AIR QUALITY

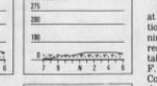
Hourly average pollutants, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



PASADENA



LA HABRA



CLINICS

Continued from B1

In 1989, 700 people were arrested at an Operation Rescue demonstration at a Koratston family planning clinic. Those arrests, which resulted in charges of police brutality, arose after then-Chief Deputy P. Gates was chided by the City Council for being light-handed in dealing with previous anti-abortion demonstrations.

The proposed buffer zone would still allow peaceful protesters to exercise their 1st Amendment rights, said Marcela Howell, head of the California Abortion Rights League.

A leader of Operation Rescue, a group known for its militant protest tactics, told the council that the proposal would not stop demonstrations the group plans to hold May 25-27 in Los Angeles.

Jeff White, director of Operation Rescue California, disclosed that his group plans to blockade clinics here, but he would not reveal the locations. He warned in an interview that if nonviolent protests are stifled, it would increase the chances of violence.

"When it happens [violence]—and it will happen—I don't look to blame Operation Rescue, blame the City Council for laws like this," White said.

Attorney Anne Kindt, who represents the Right to Life League of Southern California and the Life Legal Defense Foundation, testified that the measure is vague enough to possibly allow police to arrest a "woman, quietly praying outside a clinic, who touched the heart of a client" with her prayers.

"Take away one group's 1st Amendment rights and your group may be next," the Granada Hills attorney warned.

CHURCH

Continued from B1

director of its Ambassador Performing Arts Foundation.

Although other groups of dissenters have left to form breakaway churches—including the Global Church of God and the Philadelphia Church of God—the latest development was viewed as a major setback to the Worldwide Church of God's efforts to stem the flow of members and money.

Earlier this year, the church reported a dramatic drop in income from member tithes, the ecodex of more than 10,000 of the church's 80,000 members and the cancellation of next year's Ambassador Auditorium concert series because the church could no longer afford to pay its \$2.5-million annual subsidy.

The crisis, building for the past several years, erupted into a public schism last year when the Worldwide Church of God repudiated the longtime teachings of its founder, the late Herbert W. Armstrong, and announced doctrinal changes that brought the church closer to the Protestant mainstream.

The new doctrine embraced mainstream Christian concepts of the Trinity, emphasized salvation through the grace of God alone and not through good deeds, and declared that tithing and observing the Sabbath were no longer mandatory.

Although members of the Worldwide Church of God consider themselves Christians before the doctrinal reforms, they did not observe Christmas or Easter. They still do not formally celebrate those holidays, but the prohibition against such observances no longer is enforced—a move that has upset many old-line members.

"Irreconcilable doctrinal differences have brought the church to the brink of destruction," dis-

sents involved in the Indianapolis meeting wrote. "Many ministers and laymen feel they can no longer able to fellowship in good conscience with a church which has abandoned many of its core beliefs."

Armstrong, who founded the church in 1933 and made Pasadena its headquarters, brought it world renown with his prophecies about the end of the world, "The World Tomorrow" broadcasts and the church's "Plain Truth" magazine. Armstrong died in 1986.

In Pasadena, Worldwide Church of God spokesman Tom Lapacka estimated Wednesday that the new United Church of God will attract more than 100 of the church's pastors. There were 300 pastors in the Worldwide Church of God as of February, but 104 have since resigned or been terminated because they cannot accept the church's movement toward mainstream Christianity, church officials said.

The leader of the Worldwide Church of God, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach Sr., had warned members in an April 17 "emergency letter" to expect the new future. He charged the dissenters involved in the new United Church of God include six of the Worldwide Church of God's 14 regional pastors. Before the six resigned, they had jurisdiction over nearly half of the Worldwide Church of God's local congregations in the United States.

Also elected to the new United Church of God board of directors were three former evangelists, the highest ranking clergy in the Worldwide Church of God and second only to Pastor Tkach.

Hulme was elected to serve the new church during its transitional period by more than 200 ministers and others who attended the Indi-

anapolis conference.

Elected to the new United Church of God board of directors are former Worldwide Church of God regional pastors Bob Dick, Jim Franks, Roy Holladay, Doug Horchak, Denny Luker and Ray Wood.

Other dissenters affiliating with the new United Church of God include Victor Kubik, who as assistant director of church administration oversaw all the Worldwide church's ministers in the United States. Hulme and Luker are also evangelists, as is another board member, Burk McNair.

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