

Foe Attacks Shepard on Chatsworth Zoning

Because of his insistence on a vital Chatsworth zoning change, Councilman Thomas D. Shepard may have cost the city taxpayers as much as \$1,680,000, one of his election opponents said Tuesday.

True Slocum Jr., Reseda engineer and one of Shepard's two ballot opponents, said the potential cost stems from the increased value of the rezoned land and the announced plans by the city to acquire it now for park purposes.

Shepard defended his part in the zone change and said in a statement to The Times that it's his understanding Mayor Samuel W. Yorty has backed away from plans to acquire the high-priced Chatsworth land.

Slocum said the controversy swirls around the council's decision to order rezoning of an 80-acre parcel of property in Chatsworth to allow construction of a 900-unit condominium development.

He said Shepard was the chief sponsor of the rezoning, despite opposition from the City Planning Department, the Planning Commission and the planning committee of the City Council—plus the objections of Councilman John Cassidy, in whose district the project was located.

Land value jumped from \$14,000 an acre to \$35,000 an acre after the rezoning, Slocum said.

Thus, when Yorty an-

nounced on Feb. 10 that the city planned to acquire 80 acres in the Chatsworth area for expansion of existing park facilities, it meant the price has jumped \$1,680,000 as a direct result of Shepard's insistence on the rezoning, Slocum said.

"I am still convinced that was good zoning," Shepard replies, "and I am prepared to defend it any day of the year."

He added, however, that he opposes any park expansion in the Chatsworth area at this time and said he believes Yorty now agrees with him.

Slocum said "the citizens are entitled to know what motivated Councilman Shepard to go outside of his district and to force this zoning through."