

# Hermosa Beach



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## Status conference takes place for Macpherson case

by Eric Michael Stitt

This week, Superior Court Judge Joanne O'Donnell laid out the needed steps for the Macpherson Oil lawsuit against the city to proceed to trial.

Both parties met for a status conference Jan. 14 to discuss the upcoming trial, which is now estimated to begin late in the year. Don Macpherson has sued the city for breaking an oil-drilling contract, and the battle is now in its 13th year. Macpherson is claiming an estimated \$700 million in damages.

A trial date was not set by O'Donnell at the status conference, but Macpherson and the city were informed that each will be required to provide briefs for what they believe the "scope of the trial" should be by Feb. 4.

O'Donnell informed them that both sides

will have a chance to file responses to their opponent's briefs and the court will hear their arguments on Feb. 22, Bright said.

A trial date will also be discussed at that hearing.

Jenkins said he expects a trial date to be set near the end of the calendar year.

Jenkins said they're focused on presenting evidence that drilling for oil in downtown Hermosa Beach as Macpherson wanted to do would have been hazardous, proving that the City Council had the right to breach the contract.

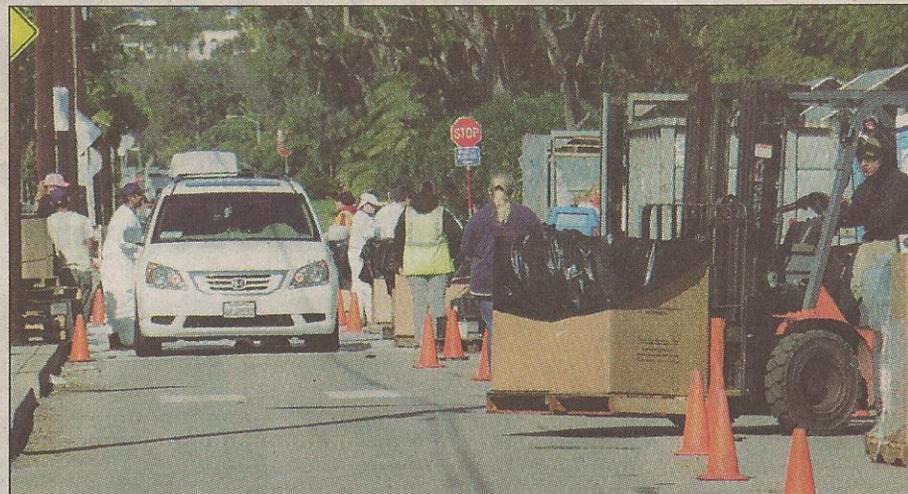
It is still possible that both sides could reach a settlement before trial.

"We're always available," Jenkins said.

Bright echoed those words.

"The city knows the door is always open to discuss settlement," Bright said. "(But) we have no intent in settling for a nuisance value."

## Hazardous waste event



A household hazardous and electronic waste collection will take place Saturday, Jan. 22, at Clark Stadium located near Eighth Street in Hermosa Beach. Local residents will be able to dispose of household hazardous waste including unused pharmaceuticals, antifreeze, car batteries, used motor oil, paint, pesticides along with electronic waste such as stereos, televisions and computers. The free event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can bring up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous waste per vehicle. *(photo by Chris Miller)*

## Some new parking meters are causing trouble downtown