

Supe hopeful gets Gordon's blessing

BY RYAN THOMAS RIDDLE

Daily Post Staff Writer

San Mateo County political heavyweight Rich Gordon, who's been elected to state Assembly, threw his full support yesterday to Dave Pine, one of the five candidates who could vie for outgoing Supervisor Mark Church's seat next year.



PINE

"I've worked with all of the announced candidates for supervisor over the years and it's certainly a qualified group of people," said Gordon, who is a three-term supervisor, in a written statement. "However, I'm throwing 100% of my support behind one candidate — Dave Pine."

Crowded field

Pine, San Mateo Union High School District's board president, will be one of five candidates battling it out in what's anticipated to be a hotly contested special election, which must be held with the Nov. 2 passage of Measure U.

Burlingame Councilwoman Terry

Nagel, San Mateo County Community College District Trustee Richard Holober, Millbrae City Councilwoman Gina Papan and Michael Stogner, who ran for Gordon's seat in the June 8 primary, have all expressed interest in running.

Pine told the Post that his focus will be to see that the county's budget is prudently managed. He said he also hopes to parlay his experience in the school district to ensure that the county continues to provide services such as health care to children from needy families.

High-speed rail

As for the controversial high-speed rail project, Pine said, "I believe in high-speed rail, but we have to be sure we can afford and construct it in a way that makes sense. It's critical that the county play an active role in the debate."

Nagel, whose city has taken an active role in the high-speed rail debate, said cities and the county need to collaborate to find a positive solution or risk not getting any federal dollars for other transportation projects.

"If we don't get on board and figure out this transportation thing fast, we're

[See SUPE, page 39]

SUPE ---

going to be left in the dust," said Nagel. She said we have time to do it right.

Holober, who has worked in public service for 17 years, agreed. "We do need to band together and I don't see that right now," he said.

Holober added that the future of high-speed rail is "very clouded" because of the uncertainty over funding.

As previously reported by the Post, the supervisors could vote by Nov. 30 to hold the special election for his seat sometime between March and April.