

Watergate Tied to Land Bill's Defeat

The scuttling of proposed federal land use legislation may turn out to be a dire consequence of Watergate, Representative Morris K. Udall (Dem-Ariz.) said yesterday in San Francisco.

Udall, co-author of the national land use planning bill, charged President Nixon "pulled the plug" on previous White House support for the measure to garner conservative congressional support in his fight to avoid impeachment.

The House bill went down to defeat last week, the congressman said, because of "a climate of fear and confusion" and the preoccupation of the Washington news media with the Watergate scandals.

"America's land may turn out to be the most serious victim of Watergate," Udall suggested bitterly at a press conference preceding a speech to a land use planning conference at the St. Francis Hotel.

Although land use planning probably is a dead issue in the current Congress, Udall said, the battle for sensible, comprehensive control of development has to go on.

"We might have a different President and Congress in 1975, with different attitudes," added Udall, who

co-sponsored the land use bill with Senator Henry Jackson (Dem-Wash.).

The controversial measure would have given \$800 million in federal aid to states over an eight-year period to assist them in developing and implementing over-all land use planning processes.