

County Business Council backs Watsonville annexation 8.22.97

Watsonville - Annexation
Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — The 66-member Santa Cruz County Business Council is throwing its support to the 216-acre annexation of prime farmland on Riverside Drive proposed by the city of Watsonville.

On Aug. 8, the Business Council sponsored an education forum on the issue for its members, as well as key public and private leaders from throughout the county, at Aptos Seascape.

James Conklin, executive director of the Business Council, said the organization polled its entire membership between Aug. 11 and Aug. 18. In a written statement Thursday, Conklin noted that more than 80 percent of the membership voted on the proposed annexation with

48 voting yes, and only seven voting against.

The overwhelming social need in the area was the major factor in Business Council members supporting the annexation.

"The decision to annex prime farmland is not an easy one. However, the potential creation of local jobs strongly influenced by the tax incentives offered to local companies employing local residents through the recent state of California approved Watsonville Enterprise Zone, was a strong motivation to this decision," Conklin wrote.

The Local Agency Formation Commission will hold a public hearing on the annexation issue Sept. 3 at Lakeview Middle School.