

# Supervisor tells council cities should cooperate in growth limit efforts

Growth limits are being considered by the Capitola city council.

The council agreed Monday night after a presentation by Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat to examine the possibility of limiting the city's growth rate in a manner similar to the county's Measure J.

Supervisors are now struggling with the implementation of Measure J, which limits the county's population growth to a "fair share" of the state's annual population growth.

But one problem for the county is that while they are mandated by Measure J to include the population growths inside the county's four cities in whatever growth rate is allowed countywide, they have no control over building activities inside the cities.

And Measure J, voted on by city and non-city residents, is not binding on the city councils.

"Where you come in," Mrs. Liddicoat told the council after outlining the problems faced by supervisors, "is that Measure J was on the ballot in your city.

"There is a legal argument as to whether Capitola is bound by it. It passed in Santa Cruz and Capitola but not in Watsonville and Scotts Valley.

"If you do deal with it, we would like to know if you are going to adopt your own form of Measure J or if you are going to ignore it."

Mayor Michael Routh told Mrs. Liddicoat that the council will discuss the issue at its Dec. 11 meeting.

If Capitola does decide to voluntarily limit its population growth, the action would take a small amount of pressure off the supervisors who are faced with high growth rates in the cities, particularly Watsonville.

But Routh and Councilman Ron Graves both indicated they would be angling for a trade-off.

Both councilmen expressed opposition to any move by the county to designate areas like the San Lorenzo Valley and the upper reaches of Soquel Valley as "suburban" areas.

The problem voiced by the councilmen is the rapid growth in the Summit Road area of the Soquel Creek

watershed, creating a demand for drinking water from Soquel Creek. Capitola has been opposing diversions from the stream because of the possibility they would eventually dry up the water bed during summer months.

Mrs. Liddicoat, responding to a question from Councilman Jerry Clarke about reports that UCSC would be closed as an economy move, said she opposed the university's closure.

"It's just a rumor. But closing UCSC would have a disastrous economic effect on this county. I would not like to see the University closed."

But she would like to see institution's growth rates slowed.

"I would like to see the University to not grow any faster than our fair share. It is a fact that many people who come to the University temporarily

stay here permanently."

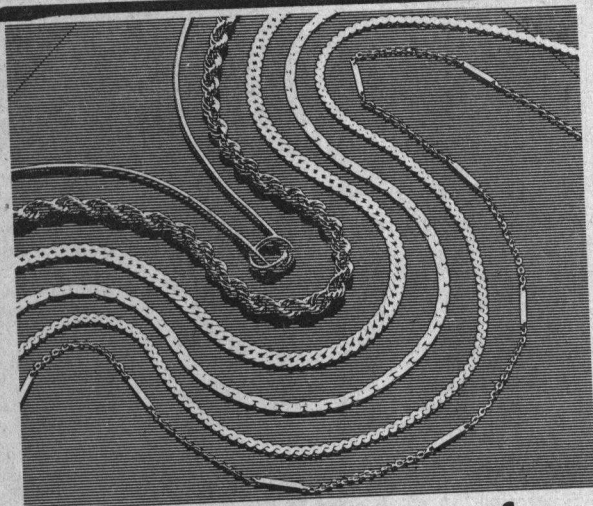
Clarke urged Mrs. Liddicoat to ask the Board of Supervisors to go on record as opposing the university's closure.

Despite the fact that Mrs. Liddicoat has urged the removal of Capitola Councilman Robert Garcia from the regional Coastal Commission, saying he was not supporting the actions of the city council and planning commission, there was no hostility evident between the two Monday.

"I'm at odds with Mr. Garcia and I don't like a lot of things the Coastal Commission is doing," said Mrs. Liddicoat, who serves as a county representative on the 15-member regional planning group.

"There are a lot of decisions being made that don't affect the coast," she charged. "I

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