

Growth plans at UCSC concern area residents

By KATHY SALAMON
STAFF WRITER

The effect on the Santa Cruz housing market from a possible doubling in size of UC-Santa Cruz emerged as a major concern of local residents last week.

This concern and others were expressed at a public workshop last Wednesday night on the university's plans for expansion.

One of the consultants on the plans, Barbara Maloney, of the San Francisco firm of Wallace, Roberts & Todd, presented three different preliminary plans for the location of four to seven additional colleges on the campus.

The additional colleges are

part of the growth of the university outlined in the UCSC 20-year plan, which states student population will double from the present 7,500 to 15,000.

From the tenor of the public comments, UCSC's plans for growth are not being well-received in the community.

"The county passed Measure J, which attempts to limit the growth of the county to 1.5 percent," said one resident. "It seems the whole premise for the expansion at UCSC is not taking in the reality of Measure J."

But John Isbister, chairman of the UCSC long-range development plan committee, said the University of California system needs to accommodate more students. If UCSC does not expand, he said, it is inevitable

that the system will build another campus at Fresno.

"If that happens," he said, "all the extra cash in the system will go toward that. This university would go downhill if we put our foot down and said we will not grow. So we had the choice — we could go downhill or we could grow."

To protect the appearance of the campus, no construction would be done in the meadow area.

City of Santa Cruz Planning Director Peter Katzlberger also attended the meeting.

"The inherent problem I have with all of your maps," he told the consultants, "is that they stop at the campus edge. You

fail to address the impacts of these changes on the community."

In the consultants' presentation, additional colleges were placed near the campus core where McHenry Library, the Performing Arts Center and the Classroom Building are located. This core would be

concentrated with a student union building, a faculty building and other central buildings.

Another east-west major road would be built from the East Field House area to Porter College and a major entrance to

the university from the east is being considered. Parking facilities would be located on the edge of the core area to reduce traffic in the core.

To protect the appearance of the campus, no construction would be done in the meadow area.

Katzlberger questioned some of the assumptions made by the consultants, particularly the decision not to build on the meadows.

"This seems to be a constraint of policy rather than an actual constraint," Katzlberger said. "The only reason I hear is that you don't want to build on the meadows because they look nice. So this area is not being considered as a housing resource."

He added, "The housing issue here is critical. The EIR (environmental impact report) is not going to kiss that off. You may have to come back and do another plan based on a completely different set of assumptions."

Katzlberger was referring to the EIR's assessment of the impacts on the community.

Maloney said the public comments received will be considered in preparing the final plans for the university growth.

More public workshops will be held in the fall, she said, when plans are more concrete. The final long-range development plan will be completed by the end of December, and the EIR should be completed by spring.

REFERENCE

APTO'S BRANCH LIBRA
7695 Soquel Drive
Aptos, California 950

GREEN SHEET
June 4, 1986