

# County wants report on airport closing

SANTA CRUZ — A majority of county supervisors believe the city of Santa Cruz should prepare an environmental impact report before closing down Sky Park Airport.

Supervisors also unanimously agree Watsonville should prepare an EIR if and when it expands the Watsonville Airport.

Fourth (Pajaro Valley) District Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. hadn't expected to be asking Watsonville city officials for an EIR when he requested Tuesday that supervisors call for an environmental report on the closure of Sky Park.

But Moore's reason for his request — that the closure of Sky Park would seriously impact Watsonville by causing more planes to move to

the Watsonville Airport — prompted Third (Santa Cruz) District Supervisor Gary Patton to ask for the same from Watsonville.

At first, Moore bristled at Patton's move. But he relented when he was assured supervisors were only asking Watsonville to do an EIR if, and when, an airport expansion were planned.

Patton said he was swayed toward asking Watsonville for an EIR on the basis of testimony from James Eagleson, a Watsonville resident who lives near the airport.

Eagleson, appearing in support of an EIR on the Sky Park closure, complained the closure would bring more planes to the Watsonville Airport. This would seriously affect his now-

quiet, rural neighborhood and would cause the airport to grow almost immediately to projected 1997 levels, Eagleson said.

Supervisors unanimously agreed to the Watsonville EIR, but Moore's move for an EIR on the Sky Park closure didn't fare as well.

It was approved in a 3-1 vote with Supervisors' Chairwoman Robley Levy and Supervisor Dan Forbus joining Moore in asking Santa Cruz for an EIR.

Patton was out of the room during the vote.

The city of Santa Cruz owns Sky Park Airport, which is located in Scotts Valley and voted to close it of Dec. 31. That decision is now on hold is now on hold pending a decision on whether an EIR should be done.

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