

# Supervisors' majority opts for service area resolution

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SANTA CRUZ — If property owners are charged for public road repairs, "they should have a right to put a chain across the road and keep people out who are not paying for the road," according to Supervisor Dan Forbus.

Forbus and Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. objected to their fellow board members today adopting a res-

olution of intention to create a county service area for road repairs.

Under such a county service area, property owners in the unincorporated area would be charged a fee to repair storm-damaged public roads. The fees would be charged according to what extent a property owner would benefit from the repair.

Public and private roads in the county sustained severe damage during the storm of January 1982 and this year's long, wet winter.

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vision networks — ABC, CBS and NBC occasions.

## Service area resolution

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While the liberal majority of Supervisors' Chairman Joe Cucchiara, Robley Levy and Gary Patton approved the resolution, they said the approval doesn't necessarily mean a county service area will be created.

It is only one of several options that will be considered to raise the estimated \$22 million to \$25 million needed to repair the county's public roads, the liberal supervisors insisted.

Before the board can decide whether this is the correct approach, Levy said, it needs to know how much could be raised through a county service area and how this total amount will be applied to property owners.

This information will be presented June 7, with a public hearing on the matter set for June 21 at 10:45 a.m. in Room 525 of the County Center.

The service area under consideration would include the entire unincorporated area, which would be divided into zones or subzones depending on how much areas benefit from road repairs.

If 50 percent or more of the registered voters in any of these zones or

subzones protest, or if owners of one-half or more of the value of land and improvements in any of these zones or subzones protest, then the board legally must remove these areas from the county service area, according to County Counsel Clair Carlson.

The protest must be aired orally or in writing at the public hearing.

Forbus said it is "unfair" to charge property owners for road repairs when the roads running in front of their properties are used by others who wouldn't be paying.

In addition, he noted, voters defeated road-repair tax elections twice in 1982.

"We've been told twice this isn't an option and I got that message," Forbus stated.

But things have changed dramatically since the June 1982 and November 1982 elections, Cucchiara said. Only about 15 of the 109 roads damaged in 1982 have been repaired, he said.

"Some folks have been living without any benefit of having storm damages repaired for 17 to 18 months now . . . These are very critical times to get this work done," Cucchiara warned, saying the winter of 1984 could be just as bad.

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