

High-tech center subject of hearing

SANTA CRUZ — A public workshop on the possible socio-economic effects of a proposed 108-acre high technology research and development center at UC Santa Cruz will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday in the Santa Cruz High School auditorium.

A report called the "socio-economic impact assessment," which addresses some projected impacts on housing, population and employment, is available at public libraries.

The center is proposed to be built in three phases over a seven- to 10-year period, with employment reaching as many as 2,000 persons. About 40 percent of the workers would be in direct research, 30 percent in administration and 30 percent in assembly-line production, according to the master plan.

Estimated construction cost is \$75 million.

The university plans to lease buildings constructed on 76 of the 108 acres to private companies. Revenue from leasing will boost the university's budget.

The plans include a new eastern access route to the campus from Highway 9 near Paradise Park. The road is needed, according to planning documents, to avoid traffic jams at the existing western access via Bay, High, and King streets and Western Drive.

More jobs would be generated by a boost to businesses that would sell materials or services to the research center — chemical supply companies, computer firms, accounting firms, restaurants, and shoe stores. When these indirect impacts are taken into account, the total number of new jobs created is projected at 3,000 to 5,000. With the new jobs will come a strain on the housing market.

Those migrating into the county to take jobs at the research center would increase the population by 700-1,500 persons. Those figures represent 2.8 to 5.3 percent of the county population growth projected between 1983 and 1993.

The report states the migrants would be taking the higher-paid technical, professional and managerial jobs with average salaries of \$43,000. Assembly-line work would be done mostly by local residents.