



## Supervisors want to throw out their budget system

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SANTA CRUZ — The county should trash its traditional system of drawing up an annual budget because the economy is wreaking havoc with this system, supervisors agreed this morning.

Faced with a recommendation from County Administrative Officer George Newell to cut about \$1 million in positions and services, supervisors this morning made the call for a new way of budgeting.

By press time, no decision had been made on budget cuts, however.

The cuts recommended today by Newell would only put a dent in the approximate \$5.7 million deficit the county faces this year.

In an unusual spirit of harmony, conservative supervisors Dan Forbus and E. Wayne Moore Jr. agreed with liberal supervisor Gary Patton that a new system of budgeting is going to have to come about.

Patton called the traditional system of drawing up an annual budget, "an excellent way to run government." But, he added, it no longer works.

"In fact, the annual system is no longer with us, because we no longer

have a stable financial base that we can count on for an entire year . . . we can no longer assume stability for a whole year," Patton said.

"We have to devise a new system. We don't have a system for the new situation," Patton added.

Forbus was the first supervisor to voice dissatisfaction with the way budgeting was going about this year. He said he was concerned about the "piecemeal" approach Newell was taking to budget reductions.

The budget deductions presented to supervisors this morning are the first round of cuts Newell will bring to

the board. The second round is due in January.

This first round, which Newell estimated will cut about \$1 million from the deficit, involved a reduction of 34.5 positions. Another available position would be frozen, meaning it would not be filled, and there is a possibility two positions in the district attorney's office also will be eliminated.

Because District Attorney Art Danner couldn't attend today's session because he is in court, Newell suggested consideration of the cuts from Danner's office be delayed until next

week.

Newell's recommendation also includes increasing disposal fees at the county dump sites.

The positions Newell is recommending be eliminated include 19.5 positions from the Human Resources Agency, 10 positions from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act Program (reflecting the federal government's final CETA allocation for 1983 which requires such a cut), two lower level positions from the Planning Department, one engineering aide from the surveyor's office and two deputies from the Sheriff's Department.