

Supervisor warns of creeping socialism

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SANTA CRUZ — The County Center is becoming the "Emerald City" of socialism with Supervisor Gary Patton as the "Wizard of Oz," says Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr.

Moore made this claim Wednesday in giving his minority view of the state of the county to the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce.

Board of Supervisors
Contacted today, Patton responded he is in no way a socialist.

The Fourth (Pajaro Valley) District supervisor is one of two conservatives members — the other is Dan Forbus — on the liberally-run board.

Moore says he's beginning to see a socialist philosophy in the county much like the one of the Labor Party in England.

Patton, he stated, is the ringleader behind this philosophy, and is followed closely by Supervisors' Chairman Joe

Cucchiara and Supervisor Robley Levy.

Patton has an agenda for the county, Moore said, that includes government control of cable television, of what one does with his property through the Local Coastal Program, of power sources through the municipalization of PG&E and of the sale of homes through requiring energy-saving measures before being allowed to sell.

"The agenda is eventual government control of all the mechanisms that make people's lives tick. Not only will the local

supervisor (Patton) be the Wizard of Oz under such a system, but 701 Ocean Street (the County Center) will be come the Emerald City. It's that type of thing I'm out to fight," Moore stated.

In his response this morning, Patton said he is in no way a socialist, but an American who believes in "Americanism where local communities use local government to govern themselves.

"That's what I think Wayne Moore

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thinks is socialism because he doesn't want government to do anything," the Third (Santa Cruz) District supervisor stated.

Patton added he doesn't have some large, ideological agenda to carry out. The only agenda he has contains three goals.

These goals include preserving and protecting the environment and controlling growth, allowing the community to use local government to do things for itself and making use of resources — including community organizations — to help the needy.

Moore blamed Patton, as the ideological leader of the board majority, for the state the county is in today.

"If you like what's going on in Santa Cruz County today, you can thank Mr. Gary Patton..." he stated.

Through obstruction of private enterprise and private industry, the liberal board majority is turning away much-needed funds and denying jobs to people, Moore stated.

"I think we face measureless perils under the current board leadership. That board leadership, in my opinion, is totally distrustful of the private sector.

"And I think, because of that, we find ourselves in Santa Cruz County in a worse mess than other counties of comparable size and population. And I'm speaking in terms of budget," Moore stated.

"One only has to look at the obstructionist antics of the board majority in regards to the Wingspread development,"

he said of a convention center/performing arts complex proposed for Aptos.

"If they really had budget concerns, they would be doing everything in the power to see that that development is put in... That development would have produced thousands and thousands, maybe millions, of tenant occupancy tax dollars which we sorely do need for programs that should be supported.

"The same board majority has taken thousands of dollars and sued the city of Watsonville on every move when they (city officials) are trying to create potentially new housing and potentially new industry.

"The same goes for the city of Scotts Valley where they (the supervisorial majority) attempted through a lawsuit to try to stop the development ... of an electronics industry.

"That board majority is denying itself potentially good, honest, clean tax revenue and it's denying the right of the people of Santa Cruz County who so desperately need jobs, jobs that they could have in clean, light industry.

"I think it's reprehensible and I don't support it and I don't associate myself with it.

"The philosophy of that majority must go, and the sooner the better," Moore concluded. "...Only through a partnership of private enterprise and county government are we going to get out of the crisis we are in today."