

# Illegal building on the increase

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The problem of illegally-built structures is countywide and not particular to the Last Chance Road area near Davenport, according to Sheriff's Department Lt. Phillip Kirkland.

Communities of homes apparently built without building permits have cropped up off Kings Creek Road in Boulder Creek and outside the city of Watsonville, Kirkland told county planning commissioners Wednesday.

Sheriff Al Noren told commissioners he has asked deputies on narcotics investigations, to note and photograph "what seems to be an enormous proliferation of illegal structures in the county."

This information recently was given to

the District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution, Noren added.

Kirkland, head of narcotics investigations, presented slides to commissioners of apparently illegal homes in the Last Chance area and handed commissioners photographs of apparently illegal homes in other areas. The slide show also contained pictures of marijuana farms.

Wanting more information, commissioners asked for a report from the Planning Department staff on the extent of the problem. They also asked for the staff to work with the Environmental Health Department on the problem of environmental damage from chemical spills.

On one of his narcotics raids near Boulder Creek, Kirkland said, he dis-

covered an illegally-built drug lab whose operators poured chemicals into a bubbling hole in the ground.

The direction for a staff report was opposed by Commissioner Mitchell Page, who once owned an illegally-built structure in the Last Chance Road area. Commissioner Ree Burnap abstained from the vote.

Kirkland said what disturbs him the most about the apparently illegal structures is the environmental damage people have caused in building these homes.

Kirkland said he's seen giant redwoods cut down at the sites of apparently illegal structures. He added he's also seen structures without any apparent sanitary facilities.

"As a drinker of water in Santa Cruz, that concerns me," he stated.