

LOCAL

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UCSC garage gets final approval

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UCSC - Growth

Now that the University of California regents have approved a UC Santa Cruz parking garage, the one remaining obstacle is a threatened lawsuit by the city of Santa Cruz.

As expected, regents voted to build what could be the first of a series of multi-level parking garages, including a possible new East Core structure and another at the campus's performing arts complex.

Other regents said the garage planned for Heller and McLaughlin drives is necessary for campus growth. They also cited the severe parking shortage for faculty, staff and

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graduate students on Science Hill.

Opponents say a large parking garage will be unsightly despite being obscured by trees. They also say it goes against the character of the wooded campus and wastes \$11 million that could be used to increase carpooling and shuttle routes or buy electric bicycles.

Friday's vote by the full Board of Regents was considered a formality after a key com-

mittee recommended approval Thursday.

The City Council has discussed suing the UC system based on the legality and accuracy of the project's environmental impact report. Council members are expected to discuss possible litigation Tuesday.

Unless a lawsuit delays the project, construction could begin in August.

County Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt, Santa Cruz Mayor Katherine Beiers and UC

Santa Cruz student assembly organizer Eric Gonzalez were among the seven area residents who spoke out against the project at Thursday's meeting.

After the meeting, UCSC Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood said the university's commitment to alternative transportation methods should reduce the number of parking garages it needs to build in the future.

The garage is part of the planned growth in the Science Hill area. The plans include a new interdisciplinary science center and a physical science building, both of which gobble up hundreds of existing parking places.