

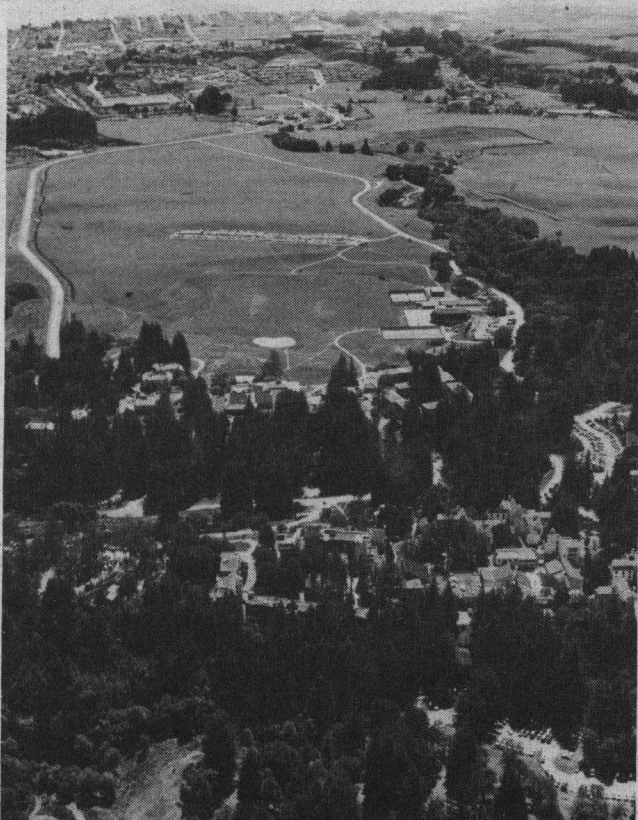
# UC Regents and LAFCO ✓ To Decide Park's Fate

IN AN ironic twist, two agencies other than the city of Santa Cruz and UCSC will decide the fate of a controversial research and development park on the campus overlooking the city.

The UC regents in Berkeley will determine if and when the park is built, and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will judge whether the city has to provide water and sewer services for the project, amounting to \$8 million.

But it will be at least one year before the regents have enough information to make a decision on the park's future, said project director Dick Pierce.

On Wednesday LAFCO will consider if and how to expand the boundaries of Santa Cruz. The city's limits now include only the southern part of the UCSC campus. The favored site for the project is on the  
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UCSC overlooking Santa Cruz

UCSC - Research Park

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### UCSC R&D

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northern part of the 2000-acre campus, not included in the city limits.

"The city doesn't want us to extend the boundary (to include that parcel)," said Pat McCormick, LAFCO's executive director.

LAFCO'S decision to annex or not is based on whether the city services are needed and if those services can be reasonably provided by the city, said McCormick. The City Council could veto an annexation by a simple majority.

If the UC land is annexed, adding more than 76 acres to Santa Cruz, it would be the largest addition to the city in more than a decade, said McCormick. The average yearly addition to Santa Cruz' boundaries is 12 acres.

Twenty years ago, when Santa Cruz bid against other municipalities to

bring the UC campus here, local officials signed a contract promising to provide needed services for the isolated campus on the hill.

But the city claims it cannot be held to that agreement, since the university was the first to renege on the contract because UCSC never grew to its planned size of 27,000 students. The campus now serves 6,700 students.

The research park would employ 2,000 workers—40 percent in research and development, 30 percent in administrative activities and 30 percent in manufacturing.

Some of the industries that might be part of the project include biotechnology (such as DNA research), electronics manufacturing and other high-tech firms.

The 700,000 square-foot complex would significantly impact the campus and community both physically and economically. Construction costs alone are expected to run \$75 million.

The project also includes construction of 535 housing units, the majority of which would be used to house workers from the center. The park would be completed in seven to 10 years.

State funding for UCSC,

as well the other campuses in the system, has diminished significantly over the last decade, and Governor George Deukmejian's new budget is expected to trim even more dollars.



Robert McCormick

The research park is expected to generate almost \$20 million by the year 2000. According to a UCSC economic impact report released last month, most of the revenue generated by the school is pumped back into the local economy. UC planners estimate the new park would provide \$1 million a year in taxes for Santa Cruz.

Nonetheless, many residents are frustrated at having no direct control over a project that could greatly affect the city's future. •