

Council Slams Katy

Vicki Bolam

There was plenty of calm but nasty mudslinging at this week's Santa Cruz City Council meeting after council conservative Katy Sears-Williams announced her resignation from four committees on which she serves as a council



Katy Sears-Williams

representative. All councilmembers share membership on these bodies, which include the Local Agency Formation Commission, the Library Board, and other area-wide bodies. In a letter to the council Sears-

Williams said that as a member in the political minority she feels she's powerless to represent the council on such bodies, making it clear that she's increasingly frustrated by her minority role.

Councilmember John Laird launched into a well-researched tirade, charging Sears-Williams with "dereliction of duty and general lack of

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competence," adding, "It's ironic for a councilmember to blame politics for the fact that they're basically not doing their job."

Laird noted that Sears-Williams has attended only one monthly Library Board meeting in the past 17 months, at a time when critical nego-

tiations are in progress, and that she has attended the equally critical UCSC Housing Committee only twice. He suggested that the council reduce salaries for members who can't "pull their weight," noting that other minority councilmembers have managed to be "articulate spokespeople for their constituents."

In return, Sears-Williams took a jibe at Laird's recent vacation to Spain, and charged the council majority with "abuses of power," illustrated, she said, by the fact that only members of the council majority are ever elected mayor. "If you don't want to see it or take it seriously, so be it.

Majority member Mike Rotkin agreed with Laird, saying he was most irritated by the political excuse. "If you just said you didn't have the time," he told Sears-Williams, "I'm sure we could work this out. There's a level of malfeasance involved if this is given as the reason for resigning from a committee. When I was in the minority I served on as many committees as I could."

While the biggest blast came from the left, members of Sears-Williams' own minority camp were also visibly embarrassed by the letter. Councilmember Ghio, who has been in both the council majority and minority, commented, "I understand the frus-

Public Affairs

MONDAY, MAY 4

- Santa Cruz City-County Library Board—7:30pm—Central Branch Meeting Room, 224 Church St.
- Cabrillo College Governing Board—4pm—Sesnon House, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos.
- San Lorenzo Valley Water District Board—7:30pm—Highlands Park Senior Center, 8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond.
- Watsonville Planning Commission—7:30pm—Council Chambers, 250 Main St.

TUESDAY MAY 5

- Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors—9am—Board Chambers, 701 Ocean St.
- Soquel Creek Water District Board—7:30pm—5180 Soquel Dr.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- Scotts Valley City Council—4pm—and 7:30pm—Carbonera Creek Trailer Park, 917 Disc Dr.
- Capitola Planning Commission—7pm—City Hall, 420 Capitola Rd.
- Local Agency Formation Commission—9:30am—Board Chambers, 701 Ocean St.
- Child Abuse Prevention Council—Noon—Sesnon House, Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr.
- Santa Cruz City Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women—6:45pm—Council Chambers, 809 Center St.
- Pajaro Unified School District Board—7:30pm—Alianza School, 440 Arthur Rd.

tration, but I work within what the realities of the situation are." Councilmember Arnie Levine went even further, saying, "This is the system; you can't just ring the bell and say 'I want to get off,' unless you get off completely."

While Sears-Williams does not

seem ready to get off completely now, she has indicated that she will probably not seek reelection when her term expires in 1988. The council voted to accept Sears-Williams' resignations, and to appoint other councilmembers to her committee assignments.