

County backs off on tower requirements

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SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors backed off today from asking their counterparts in Santa Clara County to require an environmental impact report on a TV trans-

Supervisors' cuts rid county of its deficit

SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors have managed to rid the county of just about all of its budget deficit, an analysis by County Auditor-Controller Art Merrill shows.

This analysis, including additional changes in expenditures and revenues, was accepted unanimously by supervisors today.

Merrill's analysis shows supervisors earlier this month eliminated just about all of \$3.3 million reminding in a \$5.8 million deficit. Other budget cuts and changes in November took care of the rest.

Merrill's office calculated supervisors cut \$968,509 from various departmental budgets. The board also found \$717,589 in new revenues within these budgets to cut \$1.68 million of the deficit.

Another \$358,540 was removed from the deficit this morning through the board's cancellation of certain budget appropriations it had made to cover last year's debts.

The board commonly takes this sort of action in January or February of each year, Merrill said. What it means is the board overestimated by \$358,540 the money it would need to pay last year's bills.

Approximately \$1 million also was cut from the deficit through the credit the county received from the Public Employees' Retirement System, Merrill told The Sentinel.

This credit wasn't included in the calculations presented to the board today.

To balance the budget and end up with an approximately \$858,000 contingency, the board approved additional budget changes suggested by Merrill. The changes would remove another \$202,547 from the deficit.

mitter tower planned for Summit Road north of Watsonville.

Instead, supervisors voted 3-2 to ask Santa Clara County supervisors to require KSBW-TV (Channel 8) to look into alternative locations for the proposed tower.

Supervisor Gary Patton originally suggested the board ask for an EIR, but reconsidered today after being satisfied KSBW-TV officials had looked carefully into the visual impacts and potential radiation from the proposed 1,590-foot tower.

Santa Clara County has jurisdiction in the matter since the tower would be located in that county, just over the county line.

Supervisor Dan Forbus and E. Wayne Moore Jr. were against making the request. Moore noted the tower will improve reception to low-income residents of south county who can't afford cable television.

Forbus said it would be impossible for KSBW-TV to get a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission to locate on Loma Prieta Mountain.

Patton said he believed Loma Prieta might be a better spot because other towers are located there. It would concentrate the impacts from towers in one area of the mountains, Supervisor Robley Levy agreed.

But Keith Moon, president of Blair Broadcasting of California, owners of KSBW-TV, said legally his station couldn't place a tower on Loma Prieta without a waiver.

Moon said the station's attorneys have explored the possibility of getting a waiver and suggested it wouldn't be approved.

Moon said his station wants to build the tower to improve reception to Scotts Valley, Boulder Creek and Felton.