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# Shelter proposal meets opposition

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SANTA CRUZ — A proposal to establish a permanent shelter for the homeless in a former printing plant on Potrero Street is meeting opposition from area business owners and residents, who are stepping up pressure on the City Council to drop the plan.

Opponents say the shelter, which would be housed in a 6,150-square-foot facility at 250 Potrero St., would draw transients — including drug and alcohol abusers and the mentally disturbed — to the area and “create undue hardships for businesses and their employees.”

They have called a meeting for 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Sash Mill Cinema Cafe, 303 Potrero St., to rally anti-shelter forces in advance of Tuesday's council meeting.

The council is to decide then whether to help the newly formed Citizens Committee for the Homeless purchase the Potrero Street site, which is for sale for \$337,000. The committee has already secured a pledge of \$25,000 from Jack and Elena Baskin. But the Baskins' contribution is contingent on city participation in the project. And it's expected, meanwhile, that city involvement may be made contingent, in turn, on county participation.

While council members have indicated they'll support the shelter project, county supervisors have yet to make up their minds.

Leading the fight against the proposed shelter are Bill and Nancy Raney, owners of the nearby Sash Mill Cinema and Sash Mill Cinema Cafe, and the Nickelodeon Theater.

More than 100 business owners and area residents have signed petitions urging the council and the Board of Supervisors not to fund the shelter, Nancy Raney said this morning.

“A mass shelter places the entire burden of the homeless problem on one section of the community and would create undue and unjust hardships for the community surrounding such a project,” the petitions de-

clare.

They also state that “housing diverse segments of the homeless, including drug and alcohol abusers, families with children and mentally disturbed persons under the same roof would have a severely detrimental effect on the lives of those who need the services of a shelter.”

The Potrero Street area is already the site of one shelter for the homeless — Peter Carota's 25-bed facility at the St. Francis Catholic Soup Kitchen on Mora Street.