

SANTA CRUZ GROWTH
✓ **County grows by 16 percent since 1980**

9-1-87
By DONALD MILLER
Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Santa Cruz County grew by an estimated 16.1 percent between 1980 and 1986, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates released Monday.

According to the April 1, 1980 census, the county had 188,141 residents. The bureau estimates the population as of July 1, 1986, at 218,500.

That 16.1 percent growth was just short of Monterey County's 17 percent population increase and nearly double Santa Clara

□ *State counties among top 20 in population gains — Page A6*

County's 8.2 percent. San Mateo County showed 4.5 percent.

Nationally, Santa Cruz County's population ranked 214th out of 3,138 counties.

The county's most noted controlled growth proponent, Third District Supervisor Gary Patton, said the census bureau estimates show "we continue to be under intense growth pressure."

Patton said the figures demonstrate that "no matter how hard we try," population growth is occurring, a fact that shows, he said, "we need to be eternally vigilant on growth."

While noting that the 16.1 percent is slightly more than 2.6 percent growth rate per year for 1980-86, Patton said that in the initial years of the county's voter-approved growth control Measure J, the target rate was 2.5 percent growth. It is now 1.5 percent annually.

Patton also pointed to the Santa Cruz County rate — almost twice that of Santa

Clara County. The disparity, he said, points out how the pressure to grow is coming over the hill from Santa Clara County, which he said is "exporting problems" (growth) to Santa Cruz County.

First District Supervisor Dan Forbus said he was not surprised by the census figures. "I knew it (population growth) was high — all you have to do is walk through Live Oak ... and you know the population is there."

Forbus said that the county can control the number of houses built, but "there is no way you can control the population."

Please see back of section

'I knew the population growth was high. All you have to do is walk through Live Oak ... and you know the population is there.'

— *Supervisor Dan Forbus*

A-14—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1987

Growth

Continued from Page A1

The population growth and controlled housing policies, he said, are creating a county for the "elite and the real poor" with middle-income families increasingly on the outside looking in.

Board Chairman Robley Levy said it is "hard to compare" the census figures with the county's growth-management policies, since one measures the sheer number of people, while the other seeks to regulate the rate of new housing that will be built.

"All of us (supervisors) feel we should grow slower," she said.

The federal figures are similar to state Department of Finance statistics released earlier this year estimating the county's population at 218,100 as of July 1986.

The finance department's Population Research Division also estimated that the county's population will grow to 307,400 by the year 2005, an increase of 41 percent over its

1986 estimates, which in turn, were only 400 persons below the U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

Patton defended the county's growth management policies, saying that without growth management, the rate of growth would be much higher.

He also attacked the board's recent vote on the proposed Wingspread development — the project received tentative approval by a 3-2 vote with Patton and Fifth District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara dissenting — as promoting further growth.

And he returned to another favorite subject — Highway 17. "This (the growth rate) happens even if we don't open it up," Patton said, referring to the frequent cries to add lanes to the notorious highway.

The board voted earlier this year to impose a 1-percent cap on residential growth in the county's unincorporated areas in 1987.