

Judge ready to rule against cable firm

A federal court judge has indicated he intends to rule against Group W Cable's motion to stop the bidding process centering on a cable television contract for the city and county of Santa Cruz.

An attorney for the city and county said today U.S. District Court Judge William Schwarzer said in a conference two weeks ago that his tentative decision was to rule against Group W's motion.

The attorney, Bill Marticorena, of Los Angeles, said a hearing that had been scheduled for last Friday on the motion was then postponed until Sept. 20 at the request of Group W.

Schwarzer made his announcement after hearing oral arguments from both sides over the telephone.

Schwarzer earlier dismissed six of 11 claims Group W made in its suit filed last year against the city and county after they refused to renew

Group W's contract to provide cable television service.

Marticorena said an agreement is in the works with Group W whereby the company will withdraw its motion for an injunction against the bidding process now going on provided the city and county agree that Group W can participate without giving up its right to object in the future.

The attorney said a consultant's analysis of four proposals submitted as bids for the cable contract will likely be released to the Santa Cruz City Council, the county Board of Supervisors and the public early next week.