

Sides Line Up on UCSC Industrial Park

UCSC's special status as the only developer in town that does not have to follow local land use laws could be challenged by a measure on the November city ballot.

Under state law, the University could build its proposed electronics production and research park (employing 1200 people) with no public review to decide if it fits in with local plans to control development. That exemption has already led to more than a little animosity toward University administrators as they move ahead with plans for the money making project.

Now a coalition of groups is asking the SC City Council

to place on the November ballot a measure that would challenge that exemption.

If passed, the measure would require the City Council to petition the state legislature, the regents and the president of the UC system to withhold approval and money for the project unless the city decides it conforms with local building laws.

The measure is being sponsored by the Santa Cruz Action Network and a new campus group called the Community for University and Industrial Accountability. Both the Sierra Club and the Environmental Council are considering joining in sponsorship of the measure.

The City Council will have until the end of June to decide whether the proposal should be put before the voters in November.

While University officials continue to face roadblocks to their development plan, a new and growing association of electronics firms has decided to throw its weight behind the electronics park.

The Santa Cruz Electronics Association (SCEA) represents more than 50 member firms doing business in the County. A recent decision to raise dues indicates SCEA is about to become active in local affairs. Under the new dues structure, which should raise around \$30,000 annually, member firms will pay

between \$200 and \$2500 a year depending on the number of employees.

SCEA chair Chuck Peddle of Scotts Valley's Victor Technologies Inc. estimates a full program of local action will take \$40,000 a year and hopes some companies can be convinced to donate extra funds to make up the difference.

Last Thursday the SCEA took its first important position on a local issue by deciding to endorse the idea of a research and development park on the campus. While not approving any specific proposal, the association is committed to helping the University sell the plan to the community. □

UCSC - Research Park

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