

UCSC - Growth

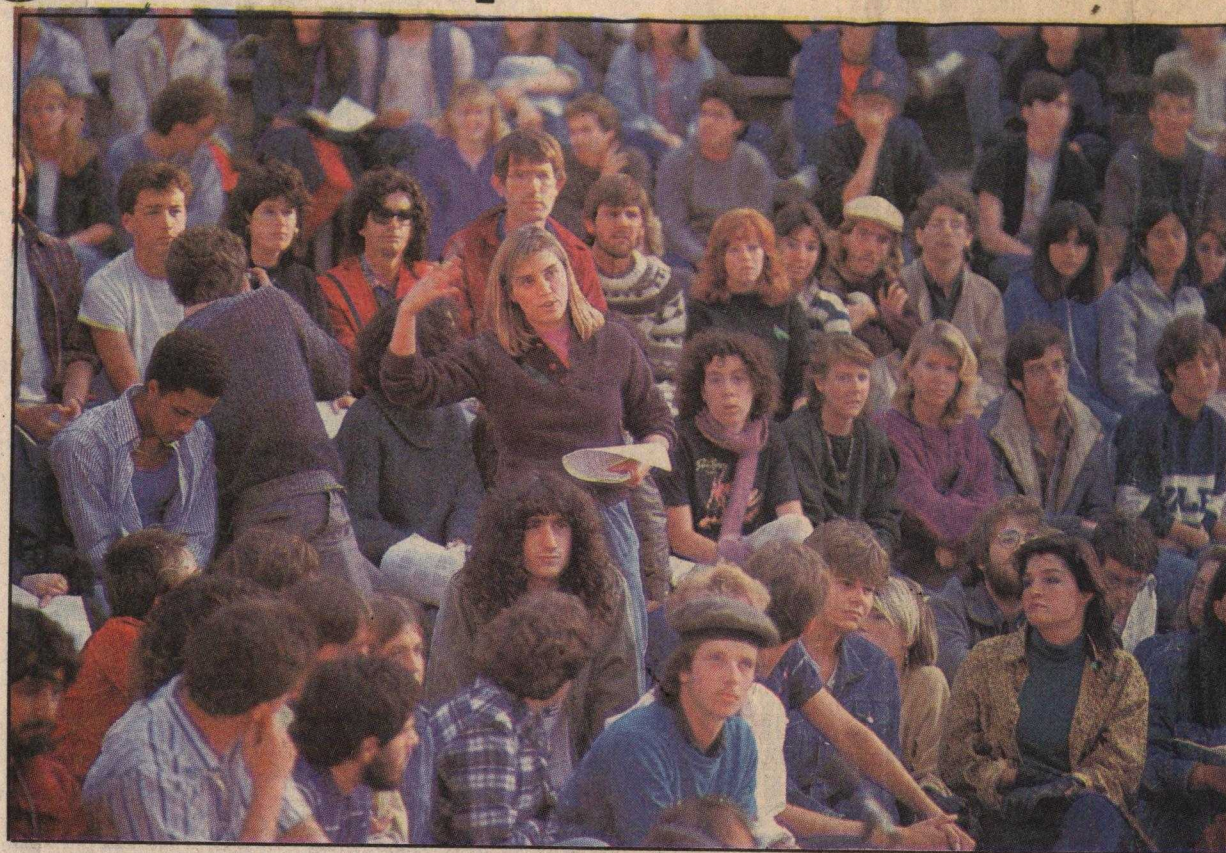
UCSC growth plans draw community ire

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'We're not against growth, but the university is in direct violation of the Environmental Quality Act.'

**— Aaron Peskin
Protest leader**

A UCSC student — one of the hundreds who turned out Thursday to protest the school's long-range development plan — voices her concern at a public forum on campus.



Dan Coyro Sentinel

By JAMIE S. CACKLER
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SANTA CRUZ — To grow or not to grow, that is the question at UC Santa Cruz. The answers are as varied as the groups that comprise the "town-gown" community: seniors citizens and students, renters and homeowners, Pogonip residents and university commuters, pro- and anti-growth factions.

All met in two separate meetings Thursday with long-term growth planners from the university.

Consultant Barbara Maloney, a UCSC graduate, presented drawings of extensive, but "very preliminary" plans, for campus developments.

The plans include building as many as six more colleges, an extensive science project, a major concert hall, student union, "university club," doubling of the size of McHenry Library, new pedestrian and traffic roads and a parking garage of four or five stories.

Maloney also said that the university is exploring a way to add an eastern entrance to the university in hope of alleviating traffic stress in the area of Mission and Bay streets.

That access, she said, could involve the sensitive Pogonip area, the rolling meadows and woodlands to the southeast of the university.

Development of that land has been fought bitterly by county residents.

County Supervisors' Chairman Gary Patton, a member of the university's Long Range Development Plan committee, said he realizes county officials have no control over university land use.

But, he said, "when you start talking about putting access through Pogonip and impacting Santa Cruz traffic, water and other resources, ... you're doing things that affect us. ... We hope the university will be a good neighbor."

University officials at the meetings said UCSC must grow. The state mandates the UC system must accept 12.5 percent of California high-school graduates.

The state's population is growing, and thus the campuses must grow, they said. Berkeley and UCLA can grow no further and UCSC must grow to accept its share, they said, and to avoid funds being drained to

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construct new campuses.

It must expand to accommodate the growth, while keeping in mind the university's original environmental and educational goals, officials told the assemblies on campus and in town.

But the overwhelming majority of the people with which the officials met said — emphatically — they were against the long-term growth projection of 12,000 to 15,000 students. They said they did not believe the growth could be accommodated by the region's natural and civic resources.

Members of the university's LRDP committee moved its afternoon on-campus meeting from a small classroom to the large outdoor Upper Quarry amphitheater when more than 600 students showed up to listen and to protest.

The LRDP committee — which is trying to come up with an outline for future campus growth — has held three open meetings since last spring. But students didn't attend the meetings until after a redwood grove was cleared this month for the construction of student apartments.

A group of vocal and legally minded students organized a protest against the construction of the Kresge Housing Addition, on Heller Drive just east of Kresge College. They said they will sue the university today.

The disputed site used to be included in the university's natural resource area, but was reclassified by the UC Regents at the request of UCSC officials this summer to make way for the development.

Among the issues in the suit, said protest leader Aaron Peskin, are the university's failure to give legal public notice of the proposed construction and its unconventional land use decision procedures.

"We're not against growth," Peskin said, "but the university is in direct violation of the Environmental Quality Act."

But others in the two meetings said they are definitely against growth.

Students at the on-campus meeting accused the current university

administration of "destroying the vision" of the original university plans, and said the administration's "zeal for a City on the Hill burns bright."

Peskin said the group filing the suit "demands" that the university notify the campus community of all future proposed developments, that the boundaries of the natural reserve area be surveyed and marked for permanent preservation, and that the university not approve the new LRDP until a group of students, faculty and staff members are given the chance to review it.

Anti-growth sentiment at the town meeting was even stronger — except toward the development of housing for the current population.

Jack Hillis, a member of the Grey Panthers and several other senior citizens' groups, said he loves UCSC, but resents the increasing pressure on the rental housing market caused by the university's expanding enrollment. Rents have doubled in a decade, he said, and would be much worse if the university's population doubled.

Hillis also said an enrollment increase to 15,000 would necessitate construction of the proposed Zayante dam project, which could cost \$50 million. Hillis was greeted with loud cheers and applause from the crowd of at least 175 when he said, "Expansion is simply wrong for the town. How in the name of God are we going to accommodate twice as many people without doing obscene things to that lovely place?"

Hillis suggested the UC Regents consider building a new campus "on the other side of the hill . . . Marine World Africa USA has just abandoned a lovely area by the (San Francisco) Bay — and they've already got a swimming pool," he said, jokingly.

Supervisors Chairman Patton said, "The community likes UCSC just the way it is."

And although the university is sovereign in its land-use decisions, he said the community might be inclined to take legislative action "if the university makes a bad plan, or makes a good plan but doesn't follow it."