

# #HOMELESS UC Regents' cooperation requested in shelter plan

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SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors and City Council members hope University of California Regents will accommodate local efforts to buy university-owned land at the intersection of Highways 1 and 9 for a permanent shelter for homeless persons.

Supervisors Tuesday unanimously passed a recommendation from Chairman Gary Patton to ask Regents to delay putting the property on the market until Aug. 1.

The delay would allow time for the county, city and Citizens Committee for the Homeless, a private, non-profit group, to draft a plan to buy the parcel for a shelter, said Patton in a report to supervisors.

At Patton's suggestion, supervisors voted to ask the Regents to set time aside during their July meeting at UC Santa Cruz "to discuss possible alternatives for acquisition, which would result in the property being made available for a permanent shelter."

Later Tuesday, Santa Cruz City Council members voted 5-2, with Joe Ghio and Katy Sears-Williams dissenting, to direct Mayor Michael Rotkin to make a similar request to university officials on the city's behalf.

An appraisal of the property prepared by Wilson Brothers realty is expected to be submitted to the university by the end of the week, said Patton.

Once the appraisal is completed, for-sale documents are scheduled to be prepared by the university

treasurer's offices by July 1, said Patton.

Bids would be received around Aug. 1, he reported.

Patton said a "slight delay" in putting the property on the market could give the county, city and private interests the time needed to package a proposal to buy the site from the university for a shelter.

The Board of Supervisors and the council each committed itself to a "coordinated effort by city, county and interested private person," including the Committee for the Homeless, to draft a plan to be presented at the July 17-18 meeting of the Regents so that "any acceptable alternative" for public and private development of a shelter at the site can be presented to Regents "in a coordinated and unified way."

Council members voted to cooperate with supervisors in applying for a grant from the Hands Across America organization for shelter funding.

Ghio and Sears-Williams objected to the fact a public hearing on the shelter proposal has not been held.

"Are we every going to have the opportunity to hear from the public, to see whether they want this at this location?" asked Ghio.

Sears-Williams said she wanted the cities of Scotts Valley, Watsonville and Capitola should be asked to cooperate in the venture for the shelter. She said the problems of the homeless are countywide, and that all the cities in the county should be cooperating on solving the problems.

Rotkin told her waiting for the other cities would be as good as making no decision.