Environment

Signs bar nukes from Santa Cruz

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SANTA CRUZ — Nuclear-powered Winnebagos will be forced to screech to a halt at city limits and children are prohibited from frolicking in radioactive waste now that the first bright blue, yellow and red Nuclear Free Zone sign has been installed at the city's border.

"But seriously," Councilman Scott Kennedy says, "this declaration adds our voice to almost 200 other cities and counties in the United States which have joined this movement."

In October, the City Council decided to ban nuclear weapons and components of the weapons to be produced, transported, or disposed of in Santa Cruz. Nuclear medicine and products with small amounts of radioactive materials such as smoke detectors or clocks were excluded.

Kennedy conceded at the sign unveiling Thursday that the resolution was simply an expression of public sentiment and has no enforcement mechanism, partly because the banned activities do not occur in Santa Cruz.

Representatives from the Resource Center for Non Violence, Greenpeace, Friends Meeting, Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze and Quaker Friends cheered Thursday as Kennedy tore a paper wrapper off the sign, posted on Capitola Road south of Soquel Avenue.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Councilman Scott Kennedy unveils city's new sign.

Additional signs will be installed at the other major entrances to Santa Cruz city limits in the coming weeks.