

Measure A supporters meet

High-tech foes vow action

By JOAN RAYMOND
Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — Measure A supporters Tuesday vowed to lobby UC President David Gardner to protest the "arrogance" of UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer over plans for a high technology research and manufacturing complex on campus.

Thirty Measure A supporters, including Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt and county Supervisor Gary Patton, planned a demonstration, rally or other public activity

during a scheduled visit at the end of this month by Gardner to the Santa Cruz campus.

The Measure A supporters, meeting at the Loudon Nelson Center, used words like "rude," "arrogant," "out of it," "totally irresponsible" and "contemptuous" to describe Sinsheimer.

"The struggle has just begun. I think the (UC) Regents, president of the university and state legislators are going to have to hear from us that we knew what Measure A meant," said Wormhoudt.

Although it has not passed any court tests, Measure A was passed in November by a 72 percent voter margin. It was an attempt to give the city veto power over UCSC's plans for the industrial complex.

Critics of Measure A say the initiative has no legal clout because the university is under the direct jurisdiction of the state, not the city.

In December, Mayor John Laird asked Sinsheimer to agree not to proceed with the complex plans until the city gives its approval.

There has been no official response to the mayor's request, but Sinsheimer told a Sentinel reporter last month he would not sign the agreement.

Sinsheimer was unavailable for comment this morning.

The press secretary for Gardner said this morning Gardner is out of town and unavailable for comment.

Patton called the proposed complex "the largest single business development ever proposed in Santa

Cruz County, other than the university itself."

Patton, a lawyer, said the legal ramifications of Measure A are "unclear." He said a similar case had not yet been tested in court, but he figured the California Environmental Quality Act and state planning law are on the side of Measure A.

Whether or not university officials "have to" comply with Measure A, "they should," said Patton. "They claim they don't have to. I claim they do. The only body that ultimately will decide is the California Supreme Court."

But Patton urged Measure A supporters to stay out of court saying, "We should take the view we're not going to go to court, but make the university behave itself as an institution."

A campus group called Community United for Industrial Accountability has gathered approximately 1,000 signatures on petitions to protest the handling of the industrial complex proposal, said CUIA member Michael Ross.

Ross said those petitions will be given to Gardner.

A meeting of faculty, students and townspeople is scheduled on campus Feb. 9 to address the high-technology project.

Measure A supporters said they would lobby the City Council to sponsor a meeting on the implementation of Measure A, with an invitation to Gardner to attend.

One supporter suggested a potluck with Gardner and Measure A supporters.

A meeting with food would be "more salubrious," said the supporter, adding, "As much as I disagreed with (former City Councilman) Joe Ghio, I always liked him over food."

Another supporter suggested vegetable soup be served, crammed with large letter A's for Measure A.

Another supporter urged the group not to be meek before the chancellor. "We shouldn't have cap in hand," she said.

Patton said Sinsheimer "appears to be the kind of personality who does what he thinks is right without looking around and seeing where he is.

"It is definitely my belief the community will prevail because it is essentially right that communities determine their own destinies. Unless we lie down, we will ultimately prevail."

"Have we given up on Sinsheimer?" one supporter wanted to know.

"We need to go above him, around him and below him," replied Ross.

"He'd love it if we did nothing," guessed another supporter.

The group said it would meet again Tuesday night.