

Progressive ballot issues OK'd

CITY COUNCIL

Ghio fulminates against 'Wormhoudt Doctrine' on greenbelt land

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SANTA CRUZ — If the recall against three progressive City Council members goes before voters this fall, the ballot will also carry two measures that council conservatives derided as "political ploys."

One of the measures approved by the council Tuesday night is an advisory vote aimed at protecting

Monterey Bay from offshore oil drilling, and the other is an ordinance aimed at offering some continued protection for the city's undeveloped "greenbelt" lands.

Conservative council members Joe Ghio and John Mahaney said the measures were designed to draw progressive voters to the polls, to protect the progressive council members threatened with recall.

Ghio was particularly indignant about the greenbelt-related ordinance proposed by Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt, one of the three threatened with recall.

Ghio called her proposed ordinance the "Wormhoudt Doctrine" of how open lands should be preserved.

He accused Wormhoudt of advancing her own policies, rather than respecting the city Planning

Commission's "orderly process" for involving the community in creating a new city General Plan that would decide how to deal with the greenbelt.

The ordinance, Ghio said to Wormhoudt, represents "your vision of what the greenbelt is, not the community's vision."

Wormhoudt said she would have preferred to leave greenbelt issues

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to be decided in the General Plan, but couldn't because the threatened recall election had shaken the flow of the General Plan process and the city council leadership.

Wormhoudt said her proposed ordinance was an imperfect "stop-gap" measure for providing some protection for the open land around the city when the city's 10-year-old open space protection laws expire in 1990.

She said her ordinance was directly related to the recall effort, which she said was, in the recall organizer's own words, an attack on the council's economic and anti-growth policies.

The proposed ordinance states that after the law expires in 1990, all the private lands included in the greenbelt would retain the zoning they had when the law was passed. The zoning on any piece of privately owned land more than five acres in size could not be changed without approval by city voters.

In addition, it says that if parcels outside the city are proposed for annexation into the city, the city could not "pre-zone" the land to residential, commercial or industrial use before the annexation without voter approval.

The new ordinance would not seek to block Santa Cruz City Schools District from building a new elementary school it wants to put on 10 acres of the Arana Gulch property north of the Upper Harbor.

In an interview Monday, Worm-

houdt said she wanted to have at least some assured protection for the open spaces "no matter who is in office," referring to the threatened recall.

Councilman Don Lane, another recall target, agreed with that sentiment.

Voters elected the progressive majority on a growth-control platform, and the council members have an obligation to do what they can to follow through with that promise, Lane said. "If I leave office, I would like to do my part to leave the greenbelt behind," he said.

Wormhoudt said she would try to place the ordinance on the November 1990 ballot, if the recall fails and there is no recall election this year.

But Ghio said she wasn't being truthful. The General Plan would be finished and greenbelt policy would be set long before the 1990 election would occur, he said.

Wormhoudt's measure was approved 5-2, with Ghio and Mahaney opposing it.

And although the two criticized the other measure, they voted for it, giving it unanimous approval.

That measure, an advisory vote proposed by Councilman John Laird, would ask voters to urge the U.S. Congress to make Monterey Bay part of a federal marine sanctuary, and to ban oil drilling and regulate oil shipping in or near the bay.

Ghio and Mahaney also criticized this measure, saying that it never

would have been proposed for a ballot if the recall election wasn't threatened.

Ghio called it a "mom and apple pie" measure with no urgent reason to face voters since, as Laird agreed, it would not be a controversial matter in Santa Cruz. Council members agreed that the measure would probably receive overwhelming voter approval.

But Laird said it was important nevertheless, because of its timing. Congress will decide by the end of the year the boundaries for the marine sanctuary, and Laird said a "strong statement" by local voters could help U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Monterey, as he urges Congress to protect Monterey Bay.

He said the sanctuary and oil-drilling ban issues wouldn't have faced voters otherwise, but that the city should not "miss the opportunity" to send a well-timed message.

The council decided it will interrupt its planned August vacation so it can meet Aug. 8 or 15 to set a fall election date if the recall effort qualifies for the ballot.

That decision was also criticized by the conservatives and by recall organizer Steve Hartman, who said the progressives were holding the meeting in August so they could set the election for November instead of December or January, so that UC Santa Cruz students would be in town to vote. The students have historically been a large progressive constituency.