

# Green Sheet

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## Board seeks alternatives to massive budget cuts

Santa Cruz County Supervisors, faced with cutting \$600,000 from already-budgeted programs, Tuesday agreed to explore new methods of raising revenue before making those cuts.

The budget cuts (or some new revenue) is needed because the county found out

last week that its share of Prop. 13 "bail-out" money from the state will be \$1 million less than expected.

A \$400,000 settlement from PG&E and a \$100,000 judgement from a magazine company will ease the sting, but there's still \$600,000 to be made up.

If additional revenue isn't

found, the county administrative officer is recommending that most of the cuts (\$508,000) come from the library program. A \$72,000 expenditure for parking at the Watsonville clinic is also recommended to be cut.

Supervisor Chris Matthews this morning suggested that revenue methods, including

government housing programs, be investigated.

"We're running out of resources," Matthews said. "We shouldn't be against making a profit."

Matthews' suggestion was approved when Gary Patton and Dan Forbus joined him in voting for it, but Supervisor Pat Liberty had other ideas.

The role of government, she said, "is not to be in competition with private business." Making a profit "is not the function of government." Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat abstained

on the question, saying she agreed with the concept of exploring new revenue sources, but said the proposal is "too nebulous. It could take too much staff time."

Patton suggested exploring the possibility of charging more for use of various county-owned parks.

Supervisors also approved deferral of work on planning improvements at Pinto Lake, a project which could have long-term financial ramifications.

The county staff was asked to come back with a report on new revenue-raising methods in 30 days.

## Ending board spats not an easy task

Santa Cruz County Supervisors, who are no

we'll get a little." She said that at one time or another all

Any personal attacks, Mrs. Liddicoat said, should come