

Aptos chamber primed for visit by Patton

When County Supervisor Gary Patton told the newspapers recently that "What is coming from Aptos is something that is very Aptos: Extremist, right wing ideology", he touched some nerves within the Aptos Chamber of Commerce.

Patton was commenting on a political controversy now going on within the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce over that group's future involvement in Santa Cruz city politics. He suggested that the impetus for a challenge to the philosophies represented by himself and Santa Cruz City Councilmembers Michael Rotkin and Bruce Van

Allen originated outside the city, in Aptos.

But a majority of the Midcounty chamber members decided to "take the high road" as opposed to the "low road" chosen by Patton and not answer him directly with a protest letter.

Instead, several audience members argued that they should hold their comments about Patton until July when the Santa Cruz area supervisor is scheduled to speak before the Chamber.

Chamber director Bob McKenzie urged that the Chamber send a blunt letter to Patton, telling him his remarks

'were a grossly unfair representation of Aptos.'

But others didn't want to publicly respond to Patton's comments.

"Sometimes the best response to a stupid insult is to ignore the person and his behavior," said Mrs. Glenn Specht. "This behavior doesn't belong to the Board of Supervisors and I hate to see the Chamber of Commerce engage in it."

Others agreed. "I don't think we need to stoop to Mr. Patton's level," contractor Gary Reece said.

When McKenzie's motion finally came to a floor vote, no one supported it.