

Cucchiara named to SolarCal panel

Due largely to his work in developing the concept of "energy equivalency" as an alternative to offshore oil drilling, Supervisor Joe Cucchiara has been appointed to the SolarCal Local Government Commission on Conservation and Renewable Resources.

The appointment of the Fifth (San Lorenzo Valley-Scotts Valley) District supervisor was made recently by Gov. Edmund Brown Jr.

"Supervisor Cucchiara is a recognized leader in promoting energy efficiency," Commission Chairman Sam Chapman stated. "His efforts on behalf of the county of Santa Cruz are a model for other communities to follow and we are honored to have him on the commission."

Cucchiara introduced the idea of energy equivalency to the Board of Supervisors in an effort to call upon local governments and citizens of coastal communities to implement energy conservation programs in order to eliminate the need for the energy Secretary of the Interior James Watt claims can be extracted in 20 years of offshore oil drilling.

Since then, six coastal counties, led by Santa Cruz, have passed equivalency resolutions and more are currently considering them.

Cucchiara also is supporting a county ordinance which, if approved by a majority of supervisors, would set standards for housing construction that would result in new homes using less than 30 percent of the energy used in older homes.

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