

County to consider resolution against U.S. attack on Iraq

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SANTA CRUZ — County supervisors will take a rare stance on foreign policy Tuesday, voting on a resolution opposing war with Iraq.

Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel, is one of several authors of House Resolution 473, which advocates working through the United Nations to ensure Iraq is not developing weapons of mass destruction. President Bush is pushing for a unilateral, pre-emptive strike against Iraq instead. Nearly 30 representatives have signed Resolution 473.

Supervisors Mardi Wormhoudt and Ellen Pirie sponsored the county's resolution.

"Across the country we are finding a growing alarm at what looks like an impending, precipitous war," said Wormhoudt.

"I think it's important for those people voting in Washington to know how their constituents feel. Movements grow piece by piece and little by little across a whole country," she said.

The Santa Cruz City Council passed a measure earlier this week criticizing war with Iraq. San Francisco is considering a similar resolution, and other communities are expressing interest in following suit, Wormhoudt said.

Santa Cruz City Councilman Tim Fitzmaurice praised supervisors' action.

"It's extremely rare for them to consider a resolution like this and I'm glad they are," he said. "What's most important is that the loudest voice in this con-

versation be the people."

Farr acknowledged the local actions are symbolic gestures that won't influence Washington. But the votes could encourage a grass-roots movement opposing war with Iraq, he said. He hopes other cities and counties will pass similar resolutions.

"What really makes the difference isn't the actions of a few local governments, it's the actions of many local governments," he said.

"If the city and county could work with their national leagues to get their local, elected colleagues to do the same thing ... and do it quickly, Congress might pay attention. Because fortunately, we still are a country where the government derives its power from the consent of the governed."

Farr said House Resolution 473 will never come to a vote in the Republican-controlled Congress. What will be voted on next week is the Bush administration's plan for dealing with Iraq, he said.

The administration is toning down its language to draft a resolution the Democrat-controlled Senate will approve, Farr said. That resolution is most likely what the House will vote on next week, he said.

"It will be less than what the president wanted but will still be very close to it," Farr said. "Unfortunately, the resolution that everyone's supporting will never get a hearing under Republican leadership."

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