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CF Board of Supervisors RP 2/28/92 p. 13

County critic Busenhart makes bid for board seat

By LANE WALLACE
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Carolyn Busenhart, a frequent critic of Santa Cruz County supervisors, now wants to become one of them.

Busenhart has filed candidacy papers to oppose incumbent Jan Beautz for the Live Oak seat on the board.

It's the first attempt at public office for Busenhart, who has been in the thick of citizen efforts to cut public spending and recall supervisors for the past 15 years.

"It's time to take back our county from the inside," said Busenhart, who said she was reluctant to run but was talked into it by supporters.

If elected, Busenhart said she

would propose cutting supervisor salaries in half, push for switching meetings from day to evening and work toward reducing government spending.

Those have been recurrent themes for Busenhart, who led an unsuccessful campaign last summer to recall Beautz and three other supervisors.

Busenhart, who lives on Capitola Avenue in Soquel and owns a hairdressing shop on Soquel Drive, was switched from Supervisor Robley Levy's Midcounty district to Beautz's district by reapportionment last year.

Busenhart said Beautz may have stopped large-scale development in Live Oak, but has not helped the little guy who wants to build.

"There have been some unrealistic conditions to build," Busenhart said, especially for people in the summit area who want to rebuild from the 1989 earthquake.

Busenhart also criticized Beautz for not fighting a redistricting plan that put part of Live Oak in Supervisor Gary Patton's district, and for spending Live Oak redevelopment funds on social programs.

"I worked on Beautz's campaign in 1988. She didn't live up to her promises," Busenhart said.

Busenhart said she would cut back to half time at her shop if elected, and devote whatever time is needed to the supervisor's job.

If other supervisors don't go

along with her proposal to cut their \$50,000 salaries in half, Busenhart said she would bring up the matter weekly and donate half her salary to property owners in her district on a per-parcel basis.

Busenhart and Beautz are the only candidates who have filed papers for the Live Oak seat; the filing deadline is March 6.

In the Midcounty district, Louis Darrigo has filed papers. Darrigo, of Aptos, has regularly run for supervisor and Congress, always unsuccessfully.

Incumbent Levy, Walt Symons and Aki Hane have also filed papers in the Midcounty district.

The election will be held June 2.