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Beautz chosen to head Board of Supervisors

Live Oak-area Supervisor Jan Beautz was named 1992 chairwoman of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors yesterday.

Beautz, who was elected unanimously, is in her fourth year on the board and will be up for re-election in June. Gary Patton was named vice chairman.

"This hasn't been an easy three years," Beautz said in a brief acceptance speech, mentioning the earthquake and the recession as problems the county government has had to deal with.

As chairwoman, Beautz will preside over meetings, oversee preparation of agendas, and represent the board in dealings with other government agencies.

Beautz is part of the 4-1 "liberal" majority on the board; Watsonville-area Supervisor Ray Belgard is the lone conservative.

"It's been a long time since somebody from my district sat in this (chairman's) seat," said



Jan Beautz

Beautz.

Her predecessor, the late Dan Forbus, served as chairman about 10 years ago when conservatives held a 3-2 majority on the board.

San Lorenzo Valley Supervisor Fred Keeley was board chairman last year.