

Landslide victory for Measure A

11-9-83

SANTA CRUZ — Measure A, the city referendum on UCSC's proposed high-tech park, passed overwhelmingly Tuesday, and officials are saying the 72 percent favorable vote should send a strong message to university officials that the city wants to determine its own destiny.

The measure instructs the City Council to again petition UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer to send his plans to the city for its approval and if he refuses to ask the state Legislature to withhold building funds.

The measure passed 11,994 to 4,676.

Political analysts agree that the measure is more advisory than legally binding since the state guarantees the university academic and development autonomy.

But analysts also agree Measure A has political clout.

In his response this morning, Sinsheimer says he will go back to the bargaining table, but he's holding his ground on critical points that led the progressive City Council to put Measure A on the ballot July 12.

"It is time to bury the problems and invective of the political campaign and turn to more constructive endeavors," Sinsheimer said in a prepared statement this morning.

"The university administration remains willing to cooperate fully with local authority in all ways that do not diminish the autonomy of the university. At the same time we of course expect local authorities to fulfill their contractual obligations."

The contractual obligations are for the city to provide whatever increased sewer capacity and water is necessary and for county government to build an eastern access road to the university. Local officials say the bill will run in the millions of dollars.

Councilman John Laird said going into the election that if Measure A passes, "It will give us some cards to play at the table."

State Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville, while repeating that Measure A can't dictate an end to university or state autonomy when it comes to local governments' controls, agrees the political clout of the overwhelmingly favorable vote is not to be discounted.

Mello says state money is short and "the state does not want to put its money where there's controversy and chances for court suits to tie things up.

"I've said all along that a project this size should be done in cooperation

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Measure A—

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with local government, and this is a mandate of what the people want."

However, Mello says he would not act to end the state's autonomy over local veto power for its projects.

Sinsheimer has repeatedly said he will not give up veto power to the local Planning Commission and the City Council.

Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt has been fighting for the city's right to determine such a large project. She's said from the beginning of the controversy last year — before there was a Measure A — that the citizens of Santa Cruz would not be willing to sit still and have the university bring in a major industry without fighting for local control.

Wormhoudt earlier said that if the progressive majority "was wrong on putting this on the ballot, and wrong in knowing it would get a favorable vote, then we don't belong in office."

She said it was the major issue of the campaign and a perfect progressive issue. Its strong showing, she said, shows "we do represent the majority of people."

The high-tech park is planned for 108 acres north of Crown College. Total building coverage would be 700,000 square feet, to be completed over 7 to 10 years. That's about comparable to 25 supermarkets. The center would employ up to 2,000 people when finished.

Sinsheimer devised the plan to find a new financial resource for the university. Money would go to UCSC from leasing and possibly from high tech's proven willingness to make grants to schools where high-tech research and development occurs.

Mello said, "I think the chancellor will see the clear significance of this election."

Election at a glance

□ In a cliff-hanger Arnold Levine, Katy Sears-Williams, Mike Rotkin and Jane Weed were elected to the Santa Cruz City Council.

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□ Jane Martin and Bob Bosso coasted to victory in the race for three city Schools Board seats while Art Pearl edged Howard Hazeltine by 4½ percent of the vote.

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□ Helen S. Palmer beat her two opponents by a wide margin for the empty seat on the Cabrillo College Governing Board.

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□ Voters have agreed that city money shouldn't be invested in any manner that can lend support to South Africa's white supremacist government in Measure B.

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□ Local boatbuilder Bill Lee won an overwhelming victory in the Port District Commission election. Incumbents Joe Townsend and Jack Meehan were re-elected.

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UCSC - Research Park