

Area Service Center

Santa Cruz Poverty Unit

3-24-71

Election Is Ruled Invalid

SANTA CRUZ — A recent election of directors for the controversial Santa Cruz Area Service Center was invalidated by Santa Cruz County Supervisors Tuesday.

Supervisors ordered a new election held, asking the state Office of Economic Opportunity to oversee it.

Supervisors said fraud was in no way involved in the election, but that not all prospective candidates were aware of the procedure. Most of the five were elected on a write-in basis. They went door to door in their quest for votes.

A state official last week questioned the election, saying that the state may withhold funds for the center as a result of it. The state's main concern apparently was that at least one of the persons re-elected to the center proclaims himself to be a "revolutionary."

Gov. Ronald Reagan last

year vetoed funds for the county's entire anti-poverty program in an attempt to close the service center, which, the governor said, was operated by "revolutionaries."

The Community Action Board (CAB), directors of the anti-poverty program, last week tried to satisfy the state's concern by removing all powers from the newly elected service center's board of directors. CAB, in

effect, made the board an advisory body.

Supervisor Dan Forbus Tuesday said that this didn't go far enough. Forbus recommended that the board dissolve the service center board with the idea of holding the election later this fall.

The compromise was reached, however, but it was decided to call a new election within 90 days, and those elected would take office immediately.