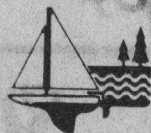


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Local



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High tech report notes population growth

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — An economic and sociological impact report on the proposed UCSC high tech park states the electronics complex would bring in from 1,050 to 2,580 new residents in the next 10 years.

It is estimated the county population will be approximately 228,000 by 1993 and the high tech park's incoming people would make up from 4-9 percent of that.

The park has been proposed by UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer as a money-maker to shore up the university's suffering treasury.

Sinsheimer would let about 100 acres of the campus' 2,000 acres be used for the research and industrial park. Only a portion of the 100 acres would be needed to complete the 700,000 square foot park. That's comparable to around 25 supermarkets in size.

When completed, the complex would hire as many as 2,000 workers and create job opportunities for off-site service industries and more service workers where the high tech workers' money is spent. It could result in over 3,000 new jobs.

The center will be built at approximately 70,000 square footage each year, which is more than the city's presently allowed total of approximately 50,000 square foot of industrial buildings each year.

City councilmembers have asked the university to send its plans through the city planning process.

While the university agreed to let the city review the plan, it stopped short of giving the city veto rights over the project.

A majority of the city on July 12 put the high tech park issue on the Nov. 8 ballot as Measure A, in an attempt to force the university to come through local planning.

Councilmembers said the university's plans would mean the city has to increase its sewer lines to the campus and find a way to provide more water.

Also, that it will mean the county will have to extend one road and build another

University officials point out that the city and county governments signed contracts to provide services when the university came here in the mid-1960s.

At that time, it was planned the university would grow to a population of 27,000. There's about 6,200 students there now and with staff it's about 8,500.

Local officials say an industrial park is not within the accepted plans for university growth and therefore should have local controls.

It's been said that incoming high tech businesses do not necessarily hire local people, and that such business should be required to hire locally.

According to the report by Mundie and Associates of San Francisco, incoming companies generally bring in their opening management, but after getting established do hire

local people, many of whom are presently commuting to Silicon Valley.

The incoming workers to the park would need from 295 to 555 housing units and over the decade that would use up from 3 to 9 percent of the new housing stock.

"The likely initial distribution of in-migrating households would be primarily in the Rio del Mar-Aptos area, nearly half, with a large proportion in the city of Santa Cruz, approximately 30 percent.

"The rest in the rural areas and in Live Oak, Soquel and Capitola," the report states.

The number of new school children would be from 254 to 622.

The report will become part of the completed environmental impact report that's due in January.