JCSC - Research Park

UCSC park hearing set June 14

SANTA CRUZ — The City Council will hold a public hearing June 14 before deciding if city voters should cast ballots on UCSC's proposed research and manufacturing center.

The voter initiative would urge the university make its proposal conform to city

land-use policies.

The decision to hold a public hearing came on a 4-3 vote with Councilmembers Bruce Van Allen, Mardi Wormhoudt, Michael Rotkin and John Laird supporting.

Laird said he wants a public hearing held before putting the initiative on the ballot. The initiative is being urged by a volunteer group called Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN).

Laird said he'd be willing to vote against putting such an initiative on the Nov. 8 ballot "if the chancellor would be willing to put the plans through the city's planning process and abide by the results."

Councilman Joseph Ghio voted against the hearing, but said he thinks the city should have planning control. Ghio urged the council to go directly to the chancellor and the area's elected representatives to try to bring the proposed center under local control.

The hearing will part of the council's evening agenda June 14 in the City Hall council chamber.

The council must decide the issue by the end of July.