

Board conservatives up in arms

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County hazardous materials commission selected

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SANTA CRUZ — The new county Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission consists entirely of citizens chosen by liberal members of the Board of Supervisors.

That makes conservative Supervisors Dan Forbus and E. Wayne Moore Jr. unhappy, to say the least.

In a series of votes Tuesday, supervisors chose the 10-member commission from a list of nominees submitted by individual supervisors.

Only one person nominated by Forbus and Moore made it on the commission and that person, Jess Brown of Aptos, also had

been nominated by liberal Supervisor Robley Levy. Brown will hold the agricultural seat on the commission.

The political dissension this created on the board caused liberal Supervisor Gary Patton to state he prefers a system in which each supervisor appoints one representative to a commission.

Moore agreed, saying the current method not only embarrasses those who aren't chosen, but also weights the commission in favor of one segment of the board.

Supervisors selected eight members to represent specific segments of the community and two community representatives.

Those named to the commission who were nominated by Patton are Joanne M.

Gratt, representing health care providers; Henrik Kibak, representing labor and Steve Barron, a community representative.

Levy had two nominees appointed, Brown and Harry Ungar, a chemist.

Supervisors' Chairman Joe Cucchiara's nominees are Larry Kinder, representing industry; Kurt Luderitz, representing fire protection; Donald Anderson, representing law enforcement; Gail Burk, representing environmental interests and community representative Marjorie Bourret.

"That makes the Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission a 3-2 commission," Forbus said, referring to the 3-2 ideological split among board members.

"It's not even a 3-2 commission,"

Moore added. "We don't have anyone."

Levy noted the board concurred on the selection of the majority of commission members.

Six were selected by a unanimous vote, but each of the six was the sole nominee for a particular position. Gratt was selected in a 4-1 vote with Moore opposed and Ungar, Barron and Boureet were ratified by a 3-2 vote.

The commission will advise the board on the implementation of the new hazardous materials disclosure ordinance that requires those who store large amounts of toxic materials to reveal the amount, type and general location of the substances.