

Rotkin wants another round in war of letters

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SANTA CRUZ — City Councilman Michael Rotkin suggests the city send another piece of paper artillery to UC Santa Cruz in the ongoing war of letters between Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer and the City Council over a proposed electronics park on campus.

Tuesday, Rotkin will ask the council to approve his idea of sending another letter to Sinsheimer, as a belated response to a missive from the chancellor Feb. 28.

Sending a formal response to Sinsheimer's letter, even at this late date, seems "particularly important" to Rotkin "because informal contacts from the chancellor and other university staff continue to reveal that the university believes some deal can be struck" behind closed doors over the proposed electronics park, says Rotkin in a memo to the council.

In his letter, Sinsheimer suggests campus and city representatives meet to "clarify" the city's land-use policy relevant to campus property and "seek to devise a 'land-use policy' mutually agreeable to both the university and the city."

In an election in November, city residents voted to try to force the university to give the city final approval of its plans for an electronics park on university-owned land. Sinsheimer maintains the city has no authority by law for such approval.

In trying to persuade the chancellor to its way of thinking, the council has approved several letters that were mailed to the campus. Sinsheimer, in turn, has mailed several responses to City Hall.

In the February letter, the chancellor says, "It occurs to me that one way out of

this conflict would be an attempt to devise city 'land-use policies' that would be mutually consistent with both the needs and interests of the university and the needs and interests of the city. If we can agree ... then the issue of who, properly, has jurisdiction becomes unimportant."

Sinsheimer states city land-use policies "are not entirely self-consistent" regarding lands originally targeted for sewage and water systems to the campus.

"Subsequent actions by the city have declared large portions of the campus to be in a 'green belt' to which municipal services (water and sewage) would not be extended," states Sinsheimer.

Rotkin's suggested letter to Sinsheimer would say it is "simply not possible" and

"highly inappropriate for representatives of the city to meet in private to devise alternatives to our general plan and other planning policies and procedures.

"I am sorry that we seem unable to make headway at bringing the university's research and development facility under city planning policies

"However your proposal unfortunately does not help us resolve our differences." The council will meet from 4 to 6 p.m. and from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at City Hall Tuesday.

In another matter, City Manager Dick Wilson has said he will delay his report on giving a break to businesses on the recently passed utility tax until June 12. Wilson said he needs more time to gather information.