

# Mayor vows to press on with Measure A

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SANTA CRUZ — Mayor John Laird said Thursday the city would continue to "press" for implementation of Measure A," despite University of California President David Gardner's statement that UC will not submit plans for a research and development center on the UCSC campus to the city for approval.

The ballot measure, calling on UCSC to submit its R&D park plans to the city, was passed last fall with the support of 72 percent of the city's voters.

Gardner said Thursday morning that

the university was "not in a position to give either the city or the county ultimate decision-making authority" on the project, noting that only university Regents had that authority under state law.

The UC president reiterated his position later in the day at a luncheon for community leaders at the Cocoanut Grove. In response to questions from the luncheon audience, Gardner said he was "well aware" of the festering dispute between the city and the university. UC Regents, he noted, "have made it clear that as a matter of policy, they always try to work things out with the community.

UCSC - Research Park  
"They prefer not to be at odds with their neighbors," Gardner said.

But he also called the university's current planning procedures "logical" and "orderly" and said he had no intention of interfering with them.

Gardner said he had declined to meet with the City Council to discuss the R&D park issue because that would have meant "taking the issue off the (UCSC) chancellor's desk and putting it on my own.

"That's interfering with the process," Gardner said.

"I don't know how I can be any straighter," he added, to vigorous applause.

"Our council took its stand ... which is basically that we're going to press for implementation of Measure A," Laird said after the luncheon.

"That position holds and we'll see where we go from here," said Laird, vowing to "press on within the context of their (the university's) process."

Laird said that the "next key point" in the dispute between the city and the university would come "when (UCSC) has

a plan to submit" to Gardner and the Regents.

"I don't see anybody changing positions until such time as the university has a project," the mayor said.

Gardner was greeted on arrival at the Cocoanut Grove Thursday by about 15 demonstrators protesting the R&D park and UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinshheimer's refusal to submit park plans to the city for approval. A spokesman for the group, environmental design researcher Hal Levin, said guidelines adopted by the UC president's office several years ago encouraged local campuses to "attempt to comply with local zoning ordinances" in the case of projects involving "non-academic uses."

Said Levin, a former UCSC environmental studies instructor now teaching at UC Berkeley, "It's clearly within the discretion of the (UCSC) campus and the university to comply with local zoning ordinances.

"They have chosen not to do so because in this case the plan they're considering violates them," Levin charged.