

Hazardous materials rule 9-21-83 is approved by supervisors

SANTA CRUZ — A new county ordinance giving residents the legal right to know where large quantities of toxic substances are stored, was approved Tuesday by supervisors.

The ordinance requires the users of harmful substances to file a "hazardous materials disclosure form" with the county health officer by Jan. 1 of each year.

A filing fee will be established by supervisors.

Violators will be held civilly liable for up to \$5,000 per day for each day that the ordinance is violated.

Provisions of the ordinance protect trade secrets and ban the disclosure of

"precise locations" of toxic substances.

If a consumer asks for information that is considered a trade secret, it is up to the owner of the trade secret to obtain a court order to block release of the information to the public.

Exempted from regulations are consumers who buy products in the stores containing small quantities of toxic substances and the handlers of small quantities.

Also exempted from disclosure are small the quantities of poisons used by individual farmers as long as the poisons are stored according to agricultural regulations.