

# UCSC may fight city's suit

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Robert Stevens, who took over as chancellor of the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California just over three months ago, indicated Wednesday that he might contest a lawsuit filed against the university by the city of Santa Cruz.

The lawsuit, filed earlier Wednesday, asks the Santa Cruz County Superior Court to overturn the university regents' decision to approve construction plans for College 8

on the UCSC campus.

In the suit, the city contends that the environmental impact report done for construction of the \$20.7 million college was inadequate and failed to consider the effects of the project on community services such as sewers, water supplies and city streets.

College 8, which has been in existence but without any buildings or facilities of its own since 1973, is supposed to be built on an 18-acre site on the west side of campus,

between Porter and Oakes colleges. Since its founding, the college has operated out of space elsewhere on campus.

Stevens, whose arrival at Santa Cruz has been heralded by many as an opportunity to heal town-gown relationships that soured during the tenure of his predecessor, said he was "somewhat disappointed" with the city's action.

"We have been trying very hard to work with the city and the county," he said. "We have been trying to be good citizens."

Stevens said his advisers have told him that "we've more than met the minimum standards" of the California Environmental Quality Act in preparation of the College 8 environmental impact report.

Then, indicating that he is not prepared to yield automatically to the city, Stevens said: "We won't lie down and let a steamroller roll over us."

However, he said he hopes the matter

*See UCSC, Page 2B*

## Lawsuit 'disappoints' new UCSC chancellor

*UCSC, from Page 1B*

can be resolved during a 45-day negotiation period prior to court action on the lawsuit. He also said he hopes the hassle won't damage the school's long-term relationship with Santa Cruz.

Kate Anderton, Santa Cruz assistant city attorney, said after filing the suit that the environmental impact report was deficient "in a variety of manners."

"There is a fundamental flaw," she said, "and from that flaw there flows other problems."

The basic flaw, Anderton said, was that the report's "analysis of the growth-inducing effects on the community of the project are less than the detailed, factual analyses required by law." She pointed to effects that College 8 could have on basic city services such as sewers and water supplies and noted that most of the developed portion of the campus is within the city limits.

She also said the impact report fails to address adequately the effects of the project on city streets

and intersections.

Stevens argued that College 8 will, when completed, benefit the town.

The chancellor said that dormitories to be constructed as part of the project will serve many of the 800 College 8 students who now either must live in dorms elsewhere on campus or in houses and apartments down in town. He also said that housing those students on campus would lessen traffic to and from the campus.

Dormitories planned as part of the project would house 360 College 8 students at first, with apartments for an additional 252 students to be built later.

Stevens, who is a lawyer as well as an educator, decried the use of lawsuits as a way of resolving problems that arise between the university and the surrounding community.

"When you start issuing writs," said Stevens, "it's not human beings talking any more. It puts it in the realm of lawyers."