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Chaminade growth opposed

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SANTA CRUZ — About 50 neighbors of the Chaminade Executive Conference Center braved the dark and chill of night Monday to organize opposition to the center's expansion plans.

The first gathering of the Chaminade Neighbors Land Watch Association took place in the outdoor amphitheater of Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School. The 400-home Santa Cruz Gardens subdivision and homes off Chaminade Lane and Paul Sweet Road border the 288 acres owned by 15 Chaminade partners.

The association is opposed to Chaminade's tentative plans to double the 150 hotel rooms now on the conference site in the hills above mid-county. It also is against tentative plans to build a health center on Paul Sweet Road and to construct 10-15 homes on 20 acres

bordering Santa Cruz Gardens.

"We are opposed to all three points," said Nancy Pederson of Thurber Lane, co-president of the association with Mark Bernhard of Paul Sweet Road. "They all go beyond what they are allowed to do now."

Other officers are Gary Bergthold of Paul Sweet road, first vice president; Joan Murphy of Katherine Lane, second vice president; and Alice Coleman, secretary.

The group was formed after Chaminade owners invited neighbors to a meeting Oct. 4 to explain their tentative plans and hear the residents' opinions.

Dr. George Miller of Sacramento, one of Chaminade's owners, said of the new association, "It may be that they are very polarized and they won't work with us. We would like to work with them to see if we can achieve some common ground and remain friendly

neighbors like we feel we have been for five years."

Among the many concerns and questions posted by Pederson were:

- Traffic. What is the circulation plan in and out of Chaminade? Will the residents of the housing development use the heavily impacted Thurber Lane, the only access to the subdivision?

- Light and noise. Will the development cause more tennis court lights and live music?

- Water. Is there adequate water?

- Sewer. Will the county extend the urban services line to allow the new development?

- Rezoning. Will the county rezone the land to allow for higher-density building?

- Housing. What is the nature of the proposed housing development? How many units? Will it trigger more development?