

Supervisors scheduled to hear ways to save nearly \$1.8 million

Board of Supervisors
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SANTA CRUZ — Ways to cut nearly \$1.8 million from county departments that are spending too much or that aren't generating enough revenues will be presented to county supervisors Tuesday by County Administrative Officer George Newell.

The supervisors' meeting begins at 9 a.m. in room 525 of the County Center, with the budget-slashing proposal the first item on the regular agenda.

Newell's proposal is expected to include many cuts in positions.

Newell estimated in October that the county is facing nearly a \$5.8 million deficit unless cuts are made. The cuts he will propose Tuesday are the first phase of a two-part budget-cutting plan he has come up with.

A second round of cuts to make up an almost \$4 million deficit in general county revenues will be proposed by Newell on Jan. 4, 1983. Those cuts also are expected to include many positions.

Newell has said that about 10 percent of the 1,200 to 1,300 county positions will have to be cut to eliminate the deficit.

The deficit, according to Newell, is being caused by the following factors: A sudden decrease in the interest rates paid on county investments, an increase in the

delinquency rate of property tax payments, reduced county revenues or increased costs due to the state and the continuing decline in the economy.

This will be the second time in a year the county will be faced with issuing layoff notices. At budget time last summer, 135 positions were eliminated from the county, but only about 40 employees actually received notices.

The remaining positions either were already vacant or those holding eliminated positions were given other assignments within the county.

But in this the next two rounds of budget cuts, many more positions are predicted to translate into layoffs because there are few, if any, vacant positions and few places within the county government to transfer employees whose positions will be cut.

Supervisors Tuesday also will consider several items concerning the Local Coastal Plan.

These include the following: An ordinance rezoning certain properties within the Coastal Zone (including the Porter-Seson site in Aptos,) amending the zoning ordinance to be consistent with the plan, adopting the Local Coastal Plan as part of the general plan and amending the land use program in the plan in reference to the loss of salamander habitat near Aptos, timber harvesting and placing fill in the floodplain.