

County Growth Figures Viewed

11-30 77

By PAUL BEATTY
Sentinel Staff Writer

A population projection of 218,000 county residents by 1990, made by Gruen and Gruen Associates in a report to county supervisors, was based on a low projection of 207,000 and a high of 238,000, the board was told Tuesday.

The report was the first of eight on which supervisors will develop a growth management plan next spring.

Claude Gruen of the consulting firm told board members that the formulas used in making the projections could be expanded should "dramatic changes" occur in the county's industry and business community.

Supervisor Gary Patton asked the consultants if a convention center in the county would be such a "drastic change" and result in an increase population over projections.

Gruen consultant Stan Mellin said it could, but that also a convention center might be an element that would only maintain the county's six percent portion of Northern California tourism.

Patton believed the

projections were low in the Bonny Doon area in forecasting about 50 homes a year will be built over the next 14 years.

Patton said that permits in that area ranged from 50 to 75 (Sentinel figures show 60 houses in 1975, 85 in 1976 and 47 to Oct. 1 this year) and added, "I see no reason not to expect the trend to continue.

"I believe these estimates are radically low and maybe others are low," Patton said.

The consultants explained their forecasts were made by dividing county residents into four categories: in-county workers, out-county workers, UCSC students and retired persons.

They said that if business continues its normal growth rate, and considering the high cost of housing, their projection of a population rate increase of 2.2 percent (down from 4.6 in the past 16 years) should be a workable figure in county planning.

However, they agreed with Patton that should "new assumptions" be made with new knowledge—such as major new business, or a county growth management plan—the projections should be adjusted.

kan
to
fait
J
cus
thro
and
call

