

# EOC Officials Trade Charges

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The chairman of the county Economic Opportunities Commission and the EOC executive director have accused each other of being a threat to the program's continued existence.

Chairman Pauline Torrecillas has sent copies of a letter to each of the 34 commission members charging that the local EOC program faces suspension unless it conforms to Office of Economic Opportunities guidelines.

The letter continues that the situation is due to problems arising recently from the make-up of the board of the Santa Cruz Area Service Center and from the methods used by Jim Heth, acting executive director, in his administration of the program.

Miss Torrecillas claims that "problems and complaints" have arisen from Heth's conduct in "administration of duties, interpretation of program operation and guidelines, relationship with his staff."

Miss Torrecillas was unavailable for comment this morning to elaborate on the charges.

Those same charges against Heth were examined at a recent EOC committee meeting, but the complaints actually

boiled down to charges that Heth kept irregular office hours and spent too much time on the telephone.

Heth, in making his counter charges, claims that Miss Torrecillas and five other commissioners constitute the real danger to the EOC program because the six were not seated on the board according to EOC regulations.

The six commissioners were holdovers when a new commission was elected last July. Heth stated they "were not selected according to Green Amendment guidelines and are sitting on the board in conflict with its guidelines."

Heth supported his argument with a letter from the western regional office of the Office of Economic Opportunity which does indeed state failure to certify the "accurate composition" of the board by a November 30 deadline "will be cause for suspension of the OEO grant."

Said Heth, "It's misleading and unfair to tell the board members we're facing suspension because of me when actually it is because of failure to follow the provisions of the Green Amendment in the makeup of the commission."

The Green Amendment was passed last year to enforce community involvement in EOC programs. It states that the

commission must be made up of one-third elected public officials or their representatives, one-third of private community

agency representatives and one-third by representatives of low-income groups.

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