

Residents appeal TO UCSC- to slow enrollment growth

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SANTA CRUZ — About 25 area residents spoke out Monday night on UCSC's long-term growth proposals, reaching near consensus that the university is growing too quickly and irresponsibly and should freeze enrollment until it can house and otherwise accommodate more students.

The now-familiar strain has been replayed at numerous meetings on and off campus as the committee creating the Long Range Development Plan assembled and then released a draft for review.

In what is to be the last general public hearing before the plan is signed by the UCSC chancellor and UC Regents, local officials and area residents fretted over the anticipated effects of a near doubling of campus population by the year 2005.

About 175 people turned out for the two-hour hearing at Santa Cruz High School. Only a half-dozen of the Long Range Plan committee's 28 members were present.

A stenographer kept track of the public comments, and committee chairman John Isbister told the crowd each committee member would receive an exact transcript of the testimony.

Criticisms of the document — which are supposed to be considered for incorporation into the final draft — came from elected officials, area residents and representatives of neighborhood groups, disabled people, city housing and transportation commissions and senior citizen groups.

City planning commissioner Dee Hansch led off the hearing, praising the plan's goal of housing 70 percent of undergraduate students on campus, and urging university officials to back their words with action.

But Hansch said the commission is concerned the plan ignores the impact a larger university will have on city sewage and water capacity and traffic volume in the area. Hansch quoted a report the commission has submitted to the plan committee calling for the university to build before increasing enrollment and consider providing general stores, hair salons and other business ser-

vices on campus to reduce student travel into town.

She urged the university to work with the commission now on solving problems that are bound to surface when the plan is held up to the required environmental impact report next fall.

Among the comments and commentors:

- Another resident called the proposed university eastern entrance and access road "Highway 1A," and asked if the university had thought about how it will prevent general traffic from using the university roads as a Highway 1 connector to avoid Mission Street.