

# UCSC seeks support for high-tech park

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SANTA CRUZ — UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer asked the town for its "support and understanding" Tuesday night, but made it clear "the rights of the local community should be subordinate to the state."

His remarks came during a nearly two-hour public hearing to decide if city voters should try to interject the city into the planning process of a research and manufacturing park Sinsheimer wants built on campus.

More than a dozen city and campus speakers had their say, then Mayor Bruce Van Allen summed it up: "We've an issue here of strong emotion and strong, but disputed, fact."

Some 150 persons were in the audience.

The City Council said it would take two weeks to think it over and come to a decision the evening of July 12.

Sinsheimer said, "UCSC is a state agency and has to be responsive to the interests of the state.

"We will seek to resolve the differences of opinion. We seek no controversy. But in the end, the Board of Regents will decide (if the park will be built)."

The chancellor said, "The measure is wrong and misguided and if this referendum is placed on the ballot, it will be vigorously opposed."

His statements were vigorously opposed by a number of speakers including senior activist Jack Hillis who asked, "Is the university some kind of royal presence?"

He said the university's actions were those of a Shakespearean Caesar and the community might well ask, "Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed, that he is grown so great?"

City resident Dan Dickmeyer demanded that Sinsheimer disclose who would oppose a ballot measure.

The measure was proposed by Santa Cruz Action Network, a citizens' group, and if the council puts it up for election it will be on the Nov. 8 ballot.

It's not known if the measure can effectively put UCSC's plans under

local control, but it would petition local legislators to introduce legislation to deny funding for non-academic buildings unless they had local control.

Councilman John Laird and others are attempting to get concessions from Sinsheimer so that the city will have a real say in the planning.

There is additional concern since Tuesday's release of a new project description that states the university will need the eastern access road that county government promised in its original contract with UCSC.

City government is concerned since it will need to provide larger sewer pipes — Councilman Michael Rotkin says \$6 million worth — and a great deal more water.

That concern heightened Tuesday when the project description disclosed the university is also considering building 535 houses near the southern main entrance.

Sinsheimer and a number of his professors say the university is a great institution and that it and the community are symbiotically entwined; that one's health is the other's.

Physics Professor Bruce Rosenblum said, "A ballot measure will raise unnecessary acrimony — prematurely."

He said the plans are still in the "embryonic stage" and that the measure "would further polarize the community."

Others testified the university lacks the tools for the highest levels of research and could get them with the \$16 million to \$19 million a high-tech park would pay for use of the 76 acres at the north edge of campus.

Associate Professor of Physics Peter Scott took the other side, saying that "putting it on the ballot is a form of communications" and would give the council more leverage in negotiating for local control.

During the estimated 7 to 10 years before completion, the university would build up to a workforce of 2,000 people.

Hillis claimed that would bring in 10,000 people and asked the university officials how in the world could Santa Cruz deal with that number since its roads and other services are stretched beyond pleasureable limits now.

Sinsheimer said the community will achieve great benefit in the 2,000 jobs as the county had an unemployment rate of 15 percent and that 20 percent of its workers had to commute out of county.

Former Santa Cruz Mayor Norm Lezin agreed, saying he's seen "tremendous pockets of unemployment" throughout the country and there are communities that would give "their eyeteeth" for such an opportunity as a high-tech complex.

