

Chancellor's plan under fire

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SANTA CRUZ — Townspeople are up in arms over UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer's intention to carry on with plans for a high-tech park at UCSC, with or without city approval.

"Dig your heels in," the council was told Tuesday by a woman urging the city to continue its fight to have a

say in the on-campus research and development center.

One man among the half dozen who spoke called for the state Board of Regents to fire Sinsheimer and replace him with "someone who cares for the community."

The chancellor was out of town and couldn't be reached for comment this morning. However, he has written to The Sentinel, expressing his displeasure that his remarks to a re-

porter last week were used in a news story. He said he was not aware his views would be published in the paper.

Thursday, Sinsheimer told a Sentinel reporter that he would not sign a memorandum of understanding with the city to process the center's plans through the city. The memo was written by Mayor John Laird.

The chancellor said, "We don't accept the concept that the city has any right of approval," and pointed

out the state law — which protects UC campuses from local land use controls — hasn't changed.

He said the Measure A vote, which directs the council to do whatever it can to bring the 100-acre center under city planning control, "was like asking the U.S. to get out of El Salvador."

City voters did just that back in November, 1981, and the vote to get the U.S. out of El Salvador won by 2-1.

Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said Tuesday evening, "It was rude and insensitive for the chancellor to let his views come through The Sentinel after we have dealt respectfully with him.

"His attitude is arrogant and disrespectful. It's going to take a full community effort to communicate with the university."

Former members of the Yes on Measure A Committee say they're already responding and forming a new committee to rebut the chancellor's statement the university's high-tech center is exempt from local planning.

Spokesperson Denise Holbert told the council, "I think it is regrettable that the citizens of this community have to go to such lengths (after) we have just been through an election where 72 percent of the voters have delivered a loud and clear message to the university."

She noted that Sinsheimer said the university would discuss measures to soften the impacts of housing, traffic, and public services.

"Well, that's just not enough," Holbert said, "the citizens of Santa Cruz will accept nothing less than the university's agreement not to proceed with any industrial project until the City Council has determined that it will be in conformance with all applicable city land use policies."

Laird didn't respond at the council session, but this morning said, "If he's going to say 'no' I would have

hoped he'd say, 'No, but here's the process we could support.'

"Then we would look to see if there's any common ground between Measure A and the proposed process."

Laird said he wants an end to negotiating in the press.

City resident Alan Holbert said, "It's past time for the council to approach the chancellor; it's time to approach the Board of Regents.

"It is time for the regents to remove the chancellor with someone who cares for the community."

Resident Lucy Haessler responded to the El Salvador comment, saying, "I think this man has delusions he is the administration in Washington. Dig your heels in," she advised the council.

Neal Coonerty, owner of Bookshop Santa Cruz, was milder, "It's important the chancellor address the concerns of those of us who treat this community as our home."

Senior activist Jack Hillis said the chancellor's response "seemed frankly incredible." He said the chancellor seems unaware of the Magna Carta and the U.S. Constitution.

"He sounds like the biggest kid on the playground who owns the basketball and whose father is the school principal," Hillis said.

Sinsheimer said Thursday he wants to talk with UC regents and UC President David Gardner before making his formal response to the offer of a memo of understanding. The official response is expected in the near future.