

# Rotkin scores chancellor's choice of research, manufacturing site

By JOHN McNICHOLAS  
Sentinel Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ — UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer has picked a 108-acre site near the middle of campus as "most appropriate" for the proposed research and manufacturing center.

Project Director Richard Pierce, assistant director of Long Marine Laboratory, said the forested site extends from behind the fire house near Crown College to behind the Applied Sciences building.

Pierce said the site was shown to be the "logical choice" by studies of the flora, fauna, visibility, the "neighborhood concern for having commercial buildings next to residential neighborhoods, the long-range development plans for the campus and the ease of development."

Mike Rotkin, city council member and UCSC lecturer, said he believes the site was chosen "because it would reduce neighborhood opposition, but environmentally it's one of the worst sites they could have picked. It clearly would require building the eastern access route through the Pogonip. And I think it's particularly unfortunate the city has had not opportunity to comment on any of this."

The university is exempted from obeying local land-use and planning ordinances. Sinsheimer has said repeatedly, however, the university would make every effort to follow local regulations.

A research and development center was suggested by Sinsheimer as a way to further university research and educational goals and to raise up to \$1.5 million a year for the campus. The proposals now being discussed envision a project which would employ up to 2,000 people. To be profitable, 60 percent of the center must be used for manufacturing, planners say.

The proposal has raised a swarm of angry protests from city, county and neighborhood representatives. They fear increased traffic, more pressure on an already-tight housing market, detrimental impacts on city services such as sewage and water. Opponents see the project as one giant step for Silicon Valley's encroachment into this county.

"It's a controversial issue," agreed project director Pierce. Any site is going to cause problems. The politicians are concerned, the community is concerned

about traffic, growth and housing — in that sense, Site G (the site chosen), or any other site has the same problems.

"Not that they aren't solvable. I think they are, but the solutions aren't going to please everybody."

Pierce said public comment gathered at three public workshops had been considered by the university administration and by planners in evaluating the four possible sites for the proposed center.

"They took comments," Rotkin said. "There's a difference between taking written comments and involving people in a decision-making process."

A coalition of community groups led by Santa Cruz Action Network has asked the City Council to place an initiative on the November city ballot. The initiative would direct the council to ask the state legislature and university Regents not to fund or approve the project unless it complies with local land-use laws.

Two more workshops are scheduled by project planners for this month. Monday, the environmental assessment staff will discuss the general approach to environmental issues raised by the proposed project. May 31, a workshop will focus on traffic, housing, employment and fiscal impacts.

Both workshops will be at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on High Street.

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## Community foundation hires executive director

The recently established Greater Santa Cruz County Community Foundation has hired an executive director and has opened an office in Aptos.

Executive director is Grace Jepsen, who comes here from Fresno, where she was deputy city manager and most recently president of Source Publications Inc.

The office is in Suite B of Crown Center, 7600 Old Dominion Court. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and telephone number is 662-3676.

The foundation was established as a publicly supported, non-profit and tax-exempt instrument for charitable giving within Santa Cruz County.