

Board wants Davenport given special attention

Santa Cruz County supervisors Tuesday asked the coastal commission to include the Davenport area in its list of places where power plants should be given extra scrutiny.

The action was requested by Supervisor Gary Patton, who said the coastal law gives the coastal commission the authority to designate certain areas along the shoreline where proposed power plants would have to undergo extra review before they could be constructed. Patton said all of Santa Cruz County, with the exception of Davenport, has been designated as an area where extra review would be necessary.

Nothing that Davenport is the only place in the county where Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has shown any interest in building a power-generating facility, Patton said "leaving Davenport out of the list smells of something to

me."

The resolution adopted by the board, with Marilyn Liddicoat dissenting, does not ban power plant construction, Patton noted. Rather, it gives the coastal commission some limited review authority. The state energy commission is in charge of power plant siting, with the exception of coastal areas designated for extra review by the coastal commission.

Mrs. Liddicoat argued against the resolution, predicting that if the coastal agency were given authority, future generations would be living in "cold, dark, drafty caves." After the resolution had been explained to her, she asked:

"Is the motion that we have no nuclear power plants?"

Acting Chairman Cecil Smith

told her "no," and said the motion would only include the coastal area near Davenport in the list of areas where extra review of power plant proposals would be required.

Smith joined Patton and Phil Baldwin (Ed Borovatz was absent) in voting for the resolution after Smith had changed the language in the resolution to specify that only the coastal zone near Davenport was at issue.

During the discussion a PG&E representative argued against the motion and also said the giant utility firm has no legal rights to purchase any property at Davenport. The company once had an option on property north of Davenport — where a nuclear power plant was being proposed.