

# Water Panel *Seaford* Opposes Proposition

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Santa Cruz water commissioners voted unanimously this morning to oppose Proposition 13, the water initiative on the Nov. 2 ballot.

"I believe local agencies are doing a terrific job (in this county) and we don't need the state to come in and tell us what to do," Commissioner Lorette Wood said.

She said there are some areas of the state with overdrafted water basins and they may need state help, but this isn't one of them.

The state disagrees and has listed the Santa Cruz-Pajaro Basin among its 13 overdrafted basins.

If 13 passes, it will mean major water providers in this county will have to submit water management plans to a new state authority.

That authority will be created in each of the 13 basin areas and will be called the "Unified Underground Water Management Authority."

The management plans will have to include conservation, soil and drainage management, efficient uses of storage and care of wetlands.

City Water Manager Morris Allen made no recommendation to the commission.

Later, he said the proposition has some worrisome parts.

He said if the basin authority doesn't accept the management plan, or its implementation schedule, it can "limit, control, or prohibit extration of groundwater within the groundwater basin."

Also, the proposition states no land can be irrigated for farming unless it has been irrigated for one growing season within the past three years.

Commissioner Michael Freitas said the proposition provides for "in-stream rights" so users cannot drain a natural stream down to its bedrock.

"But Fish and Game has already asserted rights on Zayante," Freitas said in supporting opposition.

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