

UCSC
- Research Park

4/21/83 SC Express

UCSC R&D Park Review Marches On

The environmental review of the proposed high-tech production, research and development park on the UCSC campus is continuing to move forward.

Although UCSC is exempt from local land use regulations, state law requires that an environmental impact report (EIR) be prepared on the proposal to bring 2000 new employees to the campus neighborhood. Professor

Jim Pepper, who is in charge of the EIR on his employer's project, will lead a discussion of possible sites for the park next Monday evening at the First Congregational Church on High Street.

Originally, the campus administration was considering six possible sites for its development, but half of them have been eliminated from serious consideration. Two of the three locations that have been nixed are in

the coastal zone, which would make them subject to Santa Cruz City land use regulations under the coastal act.

The university's exemption from local land use laws has already become a major point of controversy over the proposed development. At a public forum on the project last Fall, City Councilmember Mardi Wormhoudt and Supervisor Gary Patton repeatedly asked Chancellor Sinsheimer what guarantees there were that the community would be respected in decisions on the project.

At least some people in the community were apparently not pleased by the

Chancellor's answers because serious consideration is being given to a November ballot measure that would ask the state legislature to end the University's exemption from local environmental laws.

In a letter this month to the campus community, Sinsheimer stated his latest policy on the controversial question. "I will propose that the University conform voluntarily with all [local] regulations," the Chancellor wrote, but he added, "except those that contradict Regental policy or would impose unreasonable restraints upon the University's ability to fulfill its purposes." □