

Budget Cuts Hurt Santa Cruz

STATE-supported groups and agencies in the Santa Cruz area started sorting out the effects of Governor Deukmejian's \$26 billion state budget this week. The \$1.1 billion in cuts Deukmejian made after the budget was delivered to him July 19 caused howls of protest among Democrats and groups that depend heavily on state funding.

Locally, the biggest loser in the budget is the county, which will have to pare \$3.4 from its already slender \$100 million spending plan. Besides mandated cuts totaling \$300,000 in mental health, welfare, and other programs, the county will have to decide how to trim another \$2.8 million. County Administrative Officer George Newell asked supervisors Tuesday to allow him until Oct. 1 to

figure out where the reductions will come from.

Supervisor Gary Patton predicted that a big part of the \$2.8 million cut would come from law enforcement, an area traditionally protected from budget

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concerns. Patton said more than 50 percent of the county's discretionary money was spent in that area, thus making it the most susceptible.

The Coastal Commission, another big loser in the budget wrangling, faces a 30 percent reduc-

tion in staff and more than 20 percent cuts in funding. Ed Brown, head of the local office, said the cutbacks mean his agency will probably have to give less stringent attention to local building projects.

"The governor, in a backhanded way, is simply getting rid of the Coastal Commission," said Brown. "He's wanted to do it for a long time."

The city of Santa Cruz was by far the best prepared for the budget reductions. Deukmejian cut \$600,000 from the town's \$40 million budget, but the city budget planners beat him to the punch by making roughly that amount available to the general fund by cutting it from capital improvement and equipment purchase monies.

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