

# SC council opposes RV park

By ROBIN MUSITELLI

Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Just in case there was any doubt, Santa Cruz City Council members have made it clear they don't much like Graniterock Co.'s plans for a recreation vehicle park at Wilder Ranch State Park.

"Extremely offensive," was the way Councilwoman Celia Scott characterized the closed-door negotiations that led to the proposal.

The council voted 6-0, with Councilwoman Jane Yokoyama absent, to refuse to provide city water for the campground, should it be built. It also will tell lawmakers and state Coastal Commission representatives of their opposition.

It was a largely symbolic vote, however, since Graniterock had made inquiries but never formally asked the city for water.

Nor does the city have a say in the park plans, which is a joint effort between Graniterock and the state Parks and Recreation Department. The RV campground would become state park property, and the city has no jurisdiction over the proposal. Approval is up to the state Parks and Coastal commissions.

Nevertheless, council members

and other project opponents vented their opinions Tuesday afternoon.

Councilman Mike Rotkin maintained that the city should go on record refusing city water for the campground. To provide water would violate an agreement between the city and county that prohibits selling water to support growth on the North Coast, he said. The agreement was made when the city Water Department installed a new pipeline along Highway 1 to serve North Coast customers.

That's not to say the city won't ever provide water for a different campground proposal, said Rotkin. "We just hate this one."

He commented that "if all you need is a phone hookup and sewer dump, you could find an asphalt parking lot somewhere."

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt, who represents the Wilder Ranch area, said the campground would be "a major RV city on the North Coast" that would make a fortune for Graniterock over the next 35 years. "This is not a minor, low-key campground. It's a money-making venture," said Wormhoudt.

"This is not in the best interests of anyone but the developer,"

agreed Renie Gallagher of Friends of Wilder.

Opponents contend the project is too large and far too intense for Wilder Ranch State Park.

The proposal calls for converting Graniterock's sand quarry to a 400-site campground with up to 260 full service hookups with water, electrical service, telephone and cable TV for recreational vehicles.

Graniterock has proposed turning 300 acres of its quarry land, which is adjacent to Wilder Ranch State Park, over to the state parks, but running the campground for 35 years.

The proposal has stirred a nest of opponents, Bruce Bratton, a member of the Rural Bonny Doon Association, told the council. They include surfers, bike groups, environmentalists and neighborhood groups.

On the flip side, the proposal has gained support from Grassroots Organization for United Progress (GROUP.)

"... A full scale recreational area and campground that could be used by families in the community as well as families visiting the area is something that should be encouraged," said Jack Knoll, GROUP chairman.