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SEBASTOPOL 'ROUTE E' HEARING

*Bypass impact report opposed*By EILEEN KLINEMAN
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SEBASTOPOL — Area residents jammed the Sebastopol Planning Commission hearing Tuesday on the environmental impact report for proposed bypass Route E, and most made their opinions known by cheering the opposition.

The commission postponed a decision on certification of the report until its next meeting on Jan. 24.

All of the dozen or so speakers among the crowd of about 75 people protested the report, some with impassioned pleas on behalf of the Laguna de Santa Rosa wildlife that would be displaced by the two-lane highway, and others with angry words about the threat to their homes.

Still others offered comic anecdotes designed to question the wisdom of building a road in the marshy floodplain.

Ed Barnes seemed to sum up the general opinion when he told the commission about the report and its authors, "Send this back to the drawing board with these dreamers."

Several commissioners said they found gaps in the report. Author Nadine Sponamore of the Sausalito planning firm, Elgar Hill, said the problem was the Sebastopol City Council commissioned a "focused" environmental impact report that eliminated some areas of potential study.

The three alternative alignments — one beginning at Fircrest Avenue, the second at Cooper Road and the third at Bloomfield Road, which all terminate at Highway 12 about one-third mile east of the main downtown intersection — would require the removal of homes.

"We have worked all our lives to buy a hunk of

land and then Big Brother comes along and takes it," said Cooper Road resident Willow Miranda, whose property would be traversed by one of the routes.

A man who lives in Fircrest Mobile Home Park, one of two parks where trailers would be removed to accommodate Route E, said, "Any of the three routes would considerably lower the value to (park) owners."

Madrone Audubon Society spokesman Martha Bentley questioned the legality of the report based on a state law that requires environmental study of an entire proposed route.

The city commissioned an environmental impact report only on the southern portion of Route E, although the consultants said it would be useless without the construction of the northern leg of the route connecting Highway 12 with Highway 116 at Occidental Road.

The southern leg is estimated to cost \$3 million. There is no dollar estimate on the cost of the northern extension.

Sponamore said together the two extensions "would alleviate congestion for a period of 17 years because through traffic would be relieved from the downtown area."

She added that another traffic relief proposal being studied by the city, the north-south one-way street system, "would provide 10 years' relief" and the addition of an east-west one-way system "would provide 30 years' relief."

The one-way system would cost about one-tenth that of Route E, but public opposition has put that project in limbo until a June vote.