

**Santa Cruz City Council
Santa Cruz, California
March 15, 2001**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
OPPOSING THE FREE TRADE AREA OF AMERICAS**

Whereas, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is an expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and

Whereas, the FTAA was initiated in 1994 by the 34 countries of North and South America (excluding Cuba) and would create the world's largest free market zone - affecting 650 million people and \$9 trillion in capital; and

Whereas, NAFTA's Chapter 11 Investor to State Lawsuits, which will be included and strengthened in the FTAA, directly threaten the sovereignty of local and state governments; and

Whereas, this sort of corporate power would diminish the efficacy of local environmental laws and regulations; and

Whereas, the FTAA will undermine the social services that are essential for a thriving community; and

Whereas, the strict intellectual property laws within the FTAA will have devastating impacts on the people living in the global south; and

Whereas, local businesses and workers would be harmed by the increasing powers granted to large corporations; and

Whereas, local resolutions like this one have been instrumental in defeating other destructive trade agreements such as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz that it hereby:

1. opposes the FTAA;
2. petitions the Federal government to refuse to sign any new trade agreement and investment agreements, such as the proposed FTAA, that include investor-state provisions similar to the ones included in NAFTA;
3. urges the U.S. Trade Representative to withdraw any further negotiation on the FTAA;
4. requests the U.S. Trade Representative to release proposals for the agreement and written submissions to the nine negotiating groups of the FTAA;
5. requests the release of a comprehensive list of the representatives to the FTAA negotiating groups from all 34 countries involved; and
6. urges the State Legislature to adopt stronger sovereignty safeguards in implementing legislation for the FTAA and other trade agreements, now and in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to communicate the City's position to the U.S. Trade Representative, State Legislature and Congressional committees with trade jurisdiction.