

Hammer — both mayoral candidates — will be hard to ignore.

Friday's committee action was based on the report of its housing subcommittee, whose most masterful work — with the help of the Redevelopment Agency — was a policy on single-room-occupancy housing.

While recommending that rooming houses be distributed throughout the city — not clustered downtown, which already is primarily low-income — members also favored a commitment by the city to allow for the replacement of downtown units that are eliminated in the future.

That replacement policy reassured the Affordable Housing Coordinating Network, which had feared that the city's real hope was to eliminate SRO housing.

housing downtown.

Hammer now can take these recommendations to the city council's Housing Review Committee, which is overseeing a planning staff project — called the Housing Initiative Plan — to identify potential housing sites throughout the city.

The housing initiative, originally proposed as a way to help meet housing goals set by regional groups, was broadened by Hammer to re-examine the economic influences of housing, or the lack of housing, on other kinds of development.

Through the downtown committee and the housing initiative, San Jose has a chance to develop housing policies that reflect the needs of the 1990s. This is just a start — but it's a good one.

No strings attached

Aid to East Palo Alto by the Packard and Hewlett foundations is no ploy

GRANTED, it may look peculiar, this business of William Hewlett and David Packard giving money, through their private foundations, to help East Palo Alto deal more toughly with a competitor of Hewlett-Packard's.

But there's less here than meets the eye.

East Palo Alto's new redevelopment agency wants to do business with Sun Microsystems Inc., which wants to build a 1 million-square-foot campus in the new Ravenswood Industrial Park. City officials, realizing they couldn't match Sun's battery of consultants and lawyers, went outside for some help. The Packard Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation were among those asked, and each gave \$25,000, which is being used to hire a top-notch consultant to negotiate with Sun and other businesses.

It might be a potential conflict of inter-

est if the foundations had anything to do with the company. They don't. They're family foundations, with separate staffs and directors, and they're known in the world of philanthropy for their integrity. Besides, if Hewlett-Packard wanted to attack Sun's market share in office computer systems, it could probably do so in 100 more effective ways than through its founders' private foundations.

Sun itself doesn't seem to feel aggrieved by the gift. Sun spokesman Mark Vermillion said the company welcomes the expertise the funds have brought to the process and that Sun will feel more secure in its redevelopment agreement as a result.

Both the Hewlett and Packard foundations have given millions to non-profit groups, both public and private, that work to improve life in East Palo Alto. Spokesmen for each foundation said the redevelopment grants are further, if relatively modest, contributions in that regard.

Given the two foundations' impeccable reputations — and their insulation from the marketplace — we're willing to take their explanations at face value, and to applaud their help to East Palo Alto.

ports ought to begin with
and continue through
Tuesday, May 30, 1989