

Report on Aptos incorporation ready

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A scaled-back environmental impact report on the incorporation of Aptos is being proposed by Pat McCormick, executive officer of the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

But the report will probably cost several times more than the \$10,000 that incorporation proponents have indicated they are willing to pay for such a study.

The report was scheduled to be made available to LAFCO members, incorporation proponents

and the public this afternoon after last-minute editing changes had been made.

McCormick was hesitant this morning to attach a price tag to his recommendations, which will be formally presented to the LAFCO members at their monthly meeting next Wednesday morning.

He did say that the scope of work he's recommending is less than reports prepared for the incorporation movements in American Canyon and Windsor. Those reports cost proponents approximately \$70,000, the LAFCO executive officer said.

Pressed to estimate the cost of the Aptos study, McCormick said "somewhere in the \$25,000-\$75,000 range."

Incorporation proponents wanted the EIR to focus only on the fiscal impacts of Aptos breaking away from county rule and setting up its own municipal government.

The fiscal study will be a key portion of the study and the consultant will be using fiscal data now being compiled by the LAFCO staff to identify environmental impacts and mitigation measures re-

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sulting from the revenue loss expected by the county.

The county could lose millions of dollars in sales and property taxes, gas tax allocations for road maintenance, and other state subventions passed on to cities and counties.

County officials have not yet delivered the requested fiscal data to LAFCO, McCormick said this morning.

But McCormick expanded the study to include other issues considered crucial by county officials,

environmentalists and others. The largest portion is probably land use, population growth and housing. The consultant will be told to analyze and "red flag" any significant changes incorporation would bring to the community.

The consultant will also be looking at county, state and federal reports on soil erosion, the salamander habitats, transportation, open space and agriculture.