

Day Valley annexation approved

Day Valley residents hoping to improve fire protection received a mixed blessing yesterday when the Local Agency Formation Commission approved their request for annexation into the Aptos/La Selva Fire District.

In approving the request, LAFCO added the adjoining Redwood Heights area, which is on the south side of Freedom Boulevard, the other side from Day Valley.

Aptos/La Selva fire chief Al Forbes said he expected the fire board would vote down the proposed annexation when it meets Tuesday. Forbes said the fire department "is not interested in arbitrarily extending" its protection.

LAFCO executive officer Pat McCormick defended the LAFCO boundaries as "the logical ones" and criticized the fire board's reluctance to compromise.

"We went 90 percent of the way to meet the district," he said. "We want them to come the other 10."

Day Valley residents currently receive fire protection from the California Department of Forestry station in Corralitos.

Day Valley resident Norman Kaplan, who took a leading role when Day Valley residents circulated a petition for annexation 2½ years ago, said residents "have nothing to complain about in the present service," but added that annexation would improve fire response time "by two or three minutes" and would bring the Aptos/La Selva district's paramedics to the scene.

Should the fire board approve annexation, the board would set up an election, probably by mail. If Day Valley residents approve annexation, the fire board could assess a special tax, probably about \$60 a year.