

Live Oak welcome, Dixon says

Live Oak

Capitola councilman John Dixon reiterated today he would welcome "all of Live Oak to Capitola" if Santa Cruz doesn't want to annex that community.

Dixon's comments came as members of LAFCO — Local Agency Formation Commission — discussed recent grand jury criticism of their commission.

LAFCO director Duane Smith agreed the agency should share some responsibility for disorderly growth in the county. He said, however, that there is a definitive policy in the county about growth and that the county itself should share the criticism from the grand jury.

He said laws prohibit cities from forcing annexation on adjacent, urbanized areas and even prohibit cities from campaigning for annexation.

Dixon agreed that the annexation of Live Oak, "which I, for one, would welcome," cannot be initiated by Capitola.

The grand jury also was critical of LAFCO for failing to get involved with consolidations of special districts.

Smith said such consolidation must be initiated by the board of supervisors or the agencies themselves. He said, however, that he hoped LAFCO could get involved in studies of the feasibility of some consolidations in the county.