

Sent 10/16/69 p1

Live Oak Cityhood Move On

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Live Oak's powerful improvement association has started legal proceedings to incorporate that area.

The association Wednesday presented its request for cityhood documents to the county Local Agency Formation Commission, a group which controls all annexations and incorporations.

The proposed Live Oak City would lie between the boundaries of both Santa Cruz and would stretch north to take in Santa Cruz Gardens subdivision and other areas up to the mountain foothills.

Other Mid-County communities could join Live Oak in its request for incorporation if they desire, an association official said.

Talk of incorporation rather than annexation to either Santa Cruz or Capitola has been going around Live Oak for months. Both cities have claimed parts of the area largely because of the rich commercial hub of 41st Avenue.

Filing of the incorporation request does not mean the L AFC will approve it. The L AFC cur-

rently has a "freeze" on the whole area.

But Emilio Maggiolo, Live Oak Improvement Association president, said the goal is to "bring this whole thing to a head."

Annexation battles have gone on for some time in Live Oak, and the freeze has been in effect for about a year. A promised study of Mid-County incorporation by UCSC students is now complete, and the L AFC should act soon, Maggiolo indicated.

Before the improvement group can have the L AFC formally consider cityhood, it must get commission approval to circulate cityhood petitions. No action was taken Wednesday to grant this approval, since the letter was simply presented to the L AFC.

"This doesn't say we are going to incorporate, or that we can incorporate," Maggiolo said of the L AFC letter today. "It means we have opened another door."

However, the improvement group's board of directors' "and the general consensus" has been that annexation to either Santa Cruz or Capitola is not desir-

(Continued on Page 2.)