

Funds for 'City of Aptos' study short of goal

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APTOS — Fund-raising efforts of the Aptos Incorporation Steering Committee have not been as successful as the committee had hoped. But committee members are still confident about raising enough money for a preliminary feasibility study.

So far, \$1,200 has been collected by the committee since efforts began on the Fourth of July, said spokesman Tom Carmody. That money was deposited in a financial institution on Thursday, he said.

The study, which would be done by an outside consultant, is anticipated to cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

Carmody said fund-raising efforts will be stepped up, with the appointment Wednesday night of an eight-person executive committee. That committee, in turn, selected Howard Sherer as the new chairman of the fund-raising subcommittee. Sherer replaces Dr. David Montgomery.

"The committee had the best intentions in the world, but simply didn't have enough time to get things going," said Carmody. Executive committee member Terry Pershall said, "We're really tightening the screws down. We haven't made a concerted effort yet as far as soliciting donations."

Both are confident enough money can be raised to get the preliminary feasibility study done. Carmody said

the executive committee could possibly hire a consultant by "early to mid-October."

Until that preliminary study is done, any debate about financing, population or boundaries of a "city" of Aptos is premature, they said. Wednesday's meeting of committee members got bogged down in some of that debate.

"We're trying to get something done," said Carmody. "Right now, we're committed to focusing all of our energies on fund-raising to pay for that preliminary feasibility study. Until we get that study, all debate is irrelevant."

Much more work is ahead, however, since a full-blown feasibility study — which would occur only if the preliminary study is financially positive — would then be needed. Such a full-blown study could cost another \$10,000.

Early projections are for a "city" of some 22,000 residents stretching from Cabrillo College to near La Selva Beach, including the Rio del Mar-Seascape area.