

Live Oak Poll: Love It Or Leave It—For SC

By DON RIGHETTI
Sentinel Staff Writer

Most popular directions for the future of Live Oak — among the people who live and own property there — are to leave the community alone or join it to Santa Cruz.

A razor-thin one-vote margin separated the two options in a straw vote survey conducted by The Sentinel last week.

Although retention of an unincorporated status nosed out annexation to Santa Cruz by a 96-95 vote, in the overall balloting

three times as many voters opted for some kind of cityhood rather than staying in the county.

Other results were: incorporate in a big mid-county city including both Santa Cruz and Capitola — 63; annex to Capitola — 29; incorporate with a mid-county city excluding Santa Cruz — 9.

Two voters wanted Live Oak to incorporate independently.

More than 300 votes were turned in. A few were marked — or not marked — in a manner

which rendered them uncountable.

Ed Hanna, executive officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFC), called response to the survey, "Not bad at all."

He said he would put a tabulation of the votes in memorandum form and forward it to members of the LAFC board.

Biggest surprise of the survey, Hanna thinks, is the substantial number of votes for the big city idea. He said he would recommend to LAFC that it give

serious consideration to a study of the advantages and disadvantages of the creation of the metropolitan area.

Hanna thinks the vote straightened out some faulty impressions created by vocal mid-county organizations. The fact the survey was not swamped with more votes indicates Live Oak dwellers "are not steamed up about anything in particular."

He said the groups which gave the impression that Live Oak dwellers thought they were in

the midst of a crisis "were creating more heat than light."

Emilio Maggiolo, past president of the Live Oak Improvement Association, was disappointed so many voters want to remain unincorporated.

"I think that staying as we are is not the right thing," he said. "I don't see how we can improve the area by letting so much of our earnings go somewhere else. The way things are, we have no control over

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