

# La Selva City Too Costly, But Mid-County City Okay

By Peter Walls  
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If La Selva Beach wants its autonomy from the county board of supervisors it had best do it in concert with other mid-county communities in the form of a new city.

Incorporation by La Selva Beach would be simply too expensive a proposition.

This is the essence of a preliminary report by a group of urban specialists, two of whom appeared before Thursday night's meeting of the La Selva Beach Improvement Association.

The two—Judy Gaines and Michael Twombly — are UCSC students who spent much time going over facts and fictions connected with incorporation by La Selva Beach alone.

The tax base, said Twombly, is too limited and "leaves La Selva in dire straits if it wants autonomy."

Minimal city services, he said, would cost about \$62,500 a year, and would require a tax of \$1.61

per \$100 assessed valuation to maintain.

Alternatives such as a county service area or a community service district, while giving the city some say in its development, would still leave most fiscal business in county hands.

The one really viable alternative, Twombly said, would be incorporation of every community from Santa Cruz Gardens and Live Oak to the south of La Selva Beach including Soquel, Aptos, Seacliff, Rio del Mar and Capitola. Such a city would have about 35,000 persons with a "healthy budget" of \$1.8 million.

Total income from state and other sources would total \$1.1 million, leaving a deficit of close to \$700,000.

The deficit would require a city tax of \$1.04—compared to \$1.61 if La Selva went alone.

The combined city—Cabrillo—would have an assessed valuation of \$71 million.

The new city, said Twombly, by statute could require that

one member of the city council be a La Selva Beach resident, which would grant that community "an equal and powerful voice."

The total tax rate paid by property owners—including the city, county and special districts such as fire and sanitation—would be \$10.40.

Association President T. J. Fabiszewski asked whether La Selva Beach residents could exclude themselves from an incorporation move should they not like the looks of it.

Twombly said that if a majority of the residents presented a counter petition to the Local Agency Formation Commission they can be so excluded.

As the mid-county area grows, said Twombly, the political awareness of residents grows. "Events are pushing mid-county into incorporation," he said, and within a very few years.

The report given Thursday night was similar to one given last week to the board of directors only of the association.