

Poll shows support for Aptos city

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APTOS— Aptos cityhood is supported by 58 percent of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce members who responded to a chamber-sponsored survey.

Of 410 surveys sent out, 86 were returned. Of those responding, 17 percent were against incorporating this mid-county community of 18,000. Twenty-four percent were undecided.

The results were similar to three previous surveys conducted by the Rio del Mar, Seascape and Rolling Green Estates improvement associations, said Chamber Co-Manager John Hibble. Those other three surveys, which polled 1,800 house-

holds, found 60 percent supported incorporation, 20 percent against and 20 percent undecided.

Of the 86 respondents to the chamber survey, 61 percent owned a business within the proposed town boundaries. Of those, only 27 percent felt business would increase as a result of incorporation. Fifty-seven percent felt that growth in Aptos would either decrease or remain the same with incorporation; 43 percent felt growth would increase.

Opponents of the incorporation drive maintain that cityhood would prompt growth. However, in the land-use section of an environmental evaluation conducted by county Local Agency Formation

Commission Executive Director Pat McCormick, the new town is projected to grow at a 1½-percent annual rate. Under county rule, the Aptos area has been growing at 3 percent.

The chamber has not yet taken a stand on the controversial issue. Hibble said he was unsure whether the chamber would take a stand or not.

"You have to consider that nearly 20 percent of our (responding) members are against incorporation," Hibble added, "We wouldn't want to take a stand and alienate our membership."

Hibble has made no secret on where he stands. He supports city-

hood, saying, "I think urban services are best supplied by incorporated towns."

The incorporation drive is currently in neutral. Supporters having filed a writ of mandate that asks the court to overturn a LAF-CO order requiring an environmental impact report on the cityhood application. The writ is scheduled to be heard in Santa Cruz County Superior Court on Sept. 6.

An environmental report take a year or more, and cost supporters anywhere from \$25,000 to \$75,000. Opponents say it's vital that environmental impacts, including increased growth and more traffic, be identified from the outset.