

# Supervisor squelches Live Oak sidewalk project

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SANTA CRUZ — Live Oak has lost a proposed sidewalk project at the insistence of its supervisor, Dan Forbus.

Forbus angered members of the Live Oak Community Association during final budget sessions last week by rearranging \$50,000 in the county roads budget. The money was earmarked for sidewalks on Paul Minnie Road from Rodriguez Street to Green Acres School.

Instead, Forbus insisted the money go toward preliminary studies on drainage and sidewalk improvements for Chanticleer Avenue, even though Public Works Director Don Porath said \$50,000 wouldn't be enough to complete engineering and design studies.

Rob Bremner, a former president of the Live Oak Community Association, called the move "foolhardy."

"Why take money when you're not going to be able to do the whole design?" he asked later. "It's distressing to see such a small amount go into a project that is probably three or four years down the road."

While the \$500,000 of Chanticleer Avenue improvements are needed, Bremner maintained sidewalks also are needed — particularly for school children walking to Green Acres School.

Bremner hinted that Forbus might be trying to get developers, who want to build an Orchard Supply Hardware store at Chanticleer and Soquel avenues, to help fund the future project by getting the design under way.

Orchard Supply reportedly is negotiating for the seven-acre site, with hopes of closing its Capitola store for the larger site.

In other road-improvement business concerning Live Oak, supervisors did include \$372,677 in the budget for the installation of signals and realignment of what has been described as the area's "worst intersection" — where 17th Avenue meets Portola and East Cliff drives.

While Bremner was happy with that, he maintained the move was "forced" upon the board. "They really didn't have much choice," he added. "The problems are there. It's just a matter of which one of two dozen problems do you do first."

There is approximately \$532,000 in the Live Oak Transportation Fund. Those funds are derived from "in-lieu" fees paid by developers.

Bremner said Live Oak is in a "Catch-22 situation," in that once the fund is depleted, they will need more developers' fees to build it back up.

More fees, however, means more development, more traffic and more problems, he said.