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Annexation
Soquel Drive

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SC Revives Its Annex Thoughts

By BILL NEUBAUER

Sentinel Staff Writer

The Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital area may have a chance, after all, of being annexed by the City of Santa Cruz.

The possibility of the annexation was resuscitated by the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday just a few weeks after the annexation proposal seemed to have been killed by a 3 to 2 vote of the council.

Mayor Joseph Ghio contended there had been no vote taken, then Councilwoman Charlotte Melville suggested the whole question should go to the city planning commission for its study and recommendation.

Vice Mayor Larry Edler got council agreement a recommendation should come back from the commission in 30 days.

The apparent killing of the annexation a few weeks ago came when Councilmembers Bert Muhly, Carole DePalma and Melville contended in lengthy speeches that the annexation would be undesirable for reasons of economics and timing.

The annexation at that meeting was favored by Ghio and Edler. Councilman John

Mahaney abstained from voting or speaking because of a stated conflict of interest. Councilman Jim Hammond was absent.

The council gave instructions Tuesday night that the planning commission base its analysis of the relative merits of the annexation upon existing council policies and statements, not upon assumptions of what policies may be.

In July, Edler was critical of a staff analysis that claimed costs of the annexation would be high, with an added police cost of \$69,250 being estimated.

Edler said that estimate was based upon an assumption of council policy in providing that type of protection, and he said that policy had not been made.

The annexation would be the Soquel Drive - Highway 1 area, with two possible annexation areas under consideration by the city: one containing an estimated .14 square miles, the other containing .20 square miles.

The Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital authorities have expressed interest in having their property annexed.

The council action Tuesday revives the city's traditional interest in Live Oak area annexations.