

Incorporation drive falls short; extension asked

Supporters of Aptos cityhood have apparently failed, on their first attempt, to collect enough signatures to force the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission to start incorporation proceedings.

Mrs. Glenn Specht, incorporation committee chairman, said Tuesday morning that the committee "is maybe under by a couple of hundred signatures."

Petitions must have been turned in Tuesday, the last day of the six months

signature gathering period that started last October.

The committee needed the signatures of 25 percent of the registered voters in the proposed city to force LAFCO to act. Total registration in the area has been put at 8,432 plus an undetermined number in two partial precincts near Cabrillo College and Day Valley and Cox Roads.

Mrs. Specht said the petition would be turned in to LAFCO Executive Officer Bill Davis Tuesday afternoon, with the request that the signatures be

verified by the county Elections Department, and the committee given an additional 15 days to collect more names.

The committee needs approximately 2,100 signatures to qualify.

"Our actual signatures are less than 1,900," Mrs. Specht said. "I don't think we have 1,900."

"We are short, but all we can do is turn in what we have collected in good faith. We are going to do that and ask LAFCO to do what they do (with the petitions) and then

allow us to collect supplemental signatures."

Even if the drive fails, Mrs. Specht still thinks there's a strong case being made for Aptos cityhood.

"The important thing is that we have generated enough signatures to show an interest in Aptos in local control.

"Also, there is a long-term financial gain to the county in not having to supply services to the community," she added.

"There will also be an increased economic benefit to

the county if Aptos incorporates."

As a result, the incorporation group, which is sponsored by the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, will ask the county Board of Supervisors to petition LAFCO to go ahead with the study.

Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat said she will not ask the board to take the initiative on incorporation and will not support an extension of time for the signature gathering process.