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Neighborhood News of Scenic Santa

LAFCO
(local agency formation C)

Live Oak Incorporation Application Withdrawn

Live Oak Citizens Aligned for Local Government (LOCAL-G) have announced that they are withdrawing their application for incorporation submitted February 13, and a modified application has been submitted as part of the same action.

They cited as their reasons for this action as:

-- To satisfy State law governing the time elapsing between notice of hearing and date of hearing,

-- To insure adequate time for public consumption of the forthcoming County study of incorporation

-- To replace the name of Wallie Kaufmann as one of the proponents with that of George Ward.

LOCAL-G Chairman, Jeff Mauro said "We knew LAFCO could, and probably would use, as a reason for denial of our application, the as-yet incomplete study of incorporation being prepared by the County CAO's office, although it would seem that study is a duplication of the effort for which the county paid UCSC last year. Since, by statutory limitation, a hearing could not have been delayed beyond the Commission's May 20th meeting, the withdrawal and re-submission of our application was the more practical alternative."

"We expect that study to present the same type of inflated budget for the operation of a city government of Live Oak that the UCSC study and the mid-county incorporation group did in their effort to discourage the incorporation of Live Oak." Mauro continuing, added, "We think their minds are closed to the idea that there is an alternative to deficit financing in the form of bonded indebtedness and prohibitive taxes. They purposely shut their eyes to the obvious success of cities such as Scott's Valley where hard-headed city management refused to agree with the "expert" opinion that government has to bleed the taxpayer in order to exist capably and efficiently. We might remind them that the professionals said the Scott's Valley incorporation wouldn't work."

"Nevertheless, the residents of Live Oak should have an opportunity to see the study for themselves and draw their own conclusions," he added.

The only change that LOCAL-G made with their new application was the exchange of proponents names. Mauro said the press of business was the reason for Kaufman's withdrawal as a proponent. "He is still most interested in the incorporation of our comticipation."

Mauro said his group had expressed regret that the process of bringing the issue of incorporation to a vote of the people was too complex.

"The concept of an appointed governmental agency, such as LAFCO, standing between the people and the free - will expression of their choice is disturbing to LOCAL-G. The residents of Live Oak should have the right to decide this matter, totally and without proxy. Since, by State law, they do not, we must observe all the formalities and proceed through these governmental channels in an effort to give them a voice in their governmental future."

The LAFCO Commission, as it is presently made up, Mauro claims, amounts to a "stacked deck", in that nearly all the members of it represent communities or areas committed to the notion that Live Oak should be part of an existing city or a much larger mid-county incorporation. "As representatives of their own areas, they cannot, in good conscience, favor the incorporation of Live Oak," he said. "This is another case in point against their very existence, however we have expected an uphill battle all the way and we're getting it. Efforts to discredit our budget, which is based on revenue figures provided by the State Board of Equalization in Sacramento, on local legal advice and on budgetary estimates by city management where there is no city tax nor indebtedness, cannot weaken our position because it becomes necessary for those attempting to discredit our budget to justify their own expertise at governmental budget control," he concluded.