

LOCAL-G Claims Sewage Project Is Waste Of Money

By DON RIGHETTI
Sentinel Staff Writer

LOCAL-G (Live Oak Citizens Aligned for Local Government) charges that a \$3-million project to hook the East Cliff sewage disposal plant to the Santa Cruz sewage system is a waste of money and part of a scheme to bring Live Oak under the domination of Santa Cruz.

"There can be no doubt that within five years or so the state will require recycling, a tertiary method of treatment to eliminate all waste water discharges into the bay," said LOCAL-G Chairman D. J. Mauro.

"That method will render useless all existing treatment

plants and outfall lines, including the one we're being asked to help Santa Cruz buy now.

"So what happens when the state puts the plug in all the outfall lines?" Mauro continued. "With the transmission lines already in place between east Cliff and the city, the beautiful new regional tertiary treatment plant will be built in Santa Cruz and all East Cliff sewage will be transmitted there for treatment by the City of Santa Cruz.

"That's how we'll be neatly and completely consolidated," Mauro declared, "in accordance with the recommendations of the recently completed Monterey Bay study."

The chairman continued that LOCAL-G is preparing a critical review of that study which "reveals obvious discrepancies between statement and statistic, omitted information for what must be the purpose of making Santa Cruz look clean and . . . East Cliff look poor by comparison . . ."

LOCAL-G says a statement by Supervisor Dan Forbus that a guarantee can be had from Santa Cruz for outfall service touches a sore spot with the people of Live Oak. Mauro pointed out that Santa Cruz purchased Live Oak's water system and charges residents there 47 per cent more than Santa Cruz dwellers for their water.

The parallel between the water service and the sewer hookup, according to Mauro, "is unmistakable."

It long has been an argument of LOCAL-G that Santa Cruz is attempting to annex the Live Oak area through the financial levers of sewer and water service.

LOCAL-G, backers of independent cityhood for Live Oak, further contends the board of supervisors is "stretching its authority" in continuing negotiations with Santa Cruz for the sewer hookup to "sell East Cliff down the river."

The group maintains that if its cityhood bid is successful, an East Cliff Sanitation Dis-

trict board of directors chosen directly by Live Oak voters would be more qualified to decide the future of "the tremendous investment which East Cliff represents."

To further its incorporation drive, LOCAL-G will station members at the Live Oak Shopping Center, 17th Avenue and Brommer Street, Saturday from 2:30 to 6 p.m. to answer questions and receive incorporation petition signatures.

Convinced the state ultimately will require tertiary treatment anyway, LOCAL-G has inquired about tertiary treatment at East Cliff now in order to save the expense of the outfall hookup.

No word yet has been received from the state.

"We consider it short-sighted and even foolish to consider spending \$3 million to buy a disposal method which must be abandoned in so few years," Mauro concluded.

Ed Hanna, meantime, finds fault with LOCAL-G's argument about the imminent obsolescence of outfall facilities.

Hanna, executive officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission, maintains tertiary treatment requirements by the state are "a long, long way away." He further maintains that expansion of current treatment facilities is not a waste of money, since effluent first

must undergo primary and secondary treatment before it proceeds to tertiary processing.

And, he continued, since water submitted to third-stage treatment would be reused, the state will not tolerate even a momentary failure in treatment facilities. Thus, a total back-up system — a duplication of the entire facility — must be considered to take over in the event of a failure in the main plant.

Or, he said, the joint outfall now being considered could be used to by-pass the plant in the event of failure. Thus, the line would continue to serve a valuable function even in the event of tertiary treatment.