

Live Oak Group Begins Cityhood Proceedings ^{P2}

(Continued from Page 1.)

able now, an association press release added.

"And it is almost complete futility to hope to retain our status quo," it added.

Mrs. Barbara White, an earlier champion of incorporation, has been appointed chairman of the cityhood effort by the association's board of directors.

A meeting "open to all interested persons" will be held Monday at 8 p.m. at Del Mar school, off 17th Avenue, to discuss incorporation, Maggiolo said.

The city as proposed by the association would have a population of 19,000 and an assessed valuation of about \$25 million, making it the second largest city in the county behind Santa Cruz.

If petitions for cityhood are circulated, they must contain signatures of owners of at least 25 per cent of the area's assessed valuation to be considered by the LAFC. If this is done, the county board of supervisors will have a public hearing for all property owners in the area. If owners of more than half the area's assessed valuation say they don't want to incorporate, the issue would die at that hearing.

But if such objections are not raised, an incorporation election would be open to all registered voters in the area, and a simple majority approval would lead to a "Live Oak City."

Last June, association directors estimated that (based on population of 19,000) the area could be receiving about \$500,000 from state subventions (gas, sales, cigarette taxes, etc.) if it were incorporated.

At that time, Maggiolo said, "That money is now going to the county and is spread throughout the county."

The effect incorporation would have on the tax rates in Live Oak would depend on whether the city wanted to provide its own services, or keep the various special districts it has now.

Monies received from state subventions alone probably would not allow the proposed city to have control over fire, sewer, water and other tax rates, Maggiolo said. He added that the association directors had not decided whether the proposed city should add a property tax to gain control of the districts, should incorporation

become a reality. Said he, "We haven't gotten to that yet, but we have a lot of people working to see what we should do."

The recently completed Mid-County incorporation study by UCSC said incorporation of Live Oak (between the bay and Highway 1, Capitola and Santa Cruz city limits) "is not infeasible; it is extremely doubtful, however, that the available resources would permit this city to become a functional and effective entity."

Its conclusion adds, "If the residents of Live Oak choose to incorporate their areas, they must be willing to endure a lower level of urban services, a larger tax burden, and a severely limited city administration . . . The citizens of Live Oak would not be well served by such an incorporation."

Directors voted 7 to 2 to present the incorporation procedure document to LAFC. Voting against it were Henry Wiebe and Lambert Norquist, but Maggiolo said, "I don't think they were wholeheartedly against it."

Voting for the measure were directors Maggiolo, Dorothy Weynacht, Ray Stout, Ivan Netoff, Mrs. George Dunbar, Ruth Cross and John Weldon.