

# Consultant hired by Aptos cityhood group

One more step that may lead Aptos into cityhood was taken last night by the Aptos Incorporation Study Group when it hired a consultant to examine the idea.

Economic and Planning Systems, of Berkeley, was selected as the consulting firm to study money questions of the annexation. The study will estimate how much revenue could be generated through a city-tax system and what amount of services could be provided, according to Tom Carmody, spokesman for the study group.

The study should be completed by the end of the year, Carmody said, with a decision about proceeding to be made by January.

The goal of incorporation would be to allow for a planning commission, a public works department and to double police protection above current county sheriff patrols. An incorporated Aptos would not be a full-service city, Carmody

said, as most other services would be provided through contracts with existing agencies.

One reason incorporation is being considered is because cities are entitled to more state funds than unincorporated county areas, according to Carmody.

About 25 people attended last night's study session and Carmody hopes more will attend the next meeting set for 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Aptos Library.

At that meeting, boundaries for the potential city will be discussed.

"The boundaries of the new city would probably zig-zag around," said Carmody. "Part of the decision about who's in will be based on if people want to be a part of the new city."

Areas "naturally contiguous to the core of Aptos" would most likely be included, and could stretch generally from Cabrillo College to Larkin Valley, he said.