

# Annexation Battle Looms On 41st Ave.

By Wallace Wood  
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The annexation race between Santa Cruz and Capitola cities for the prized and tax-rich 41st Avenue area now is in the hands of five men—three of them county supervisors.

The naming of Supervisors Russ McCallie and Dan Forbus as member and alternate of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFC) yesterday completed the preparations for one of the key battles of the year. They replaced Supervisors Robert Burton and Tom Black, who have left the board.

The LAFC has invited Santa Cruz and

Capitola to tell them why either city should be allowed to annex along 41st Avenue, particularly near Capitola Road. Both cities are expected to make their presentations February 19.

Estimates of eventual sales and property tax revenues from the promising business area run as high as \$250,000 per year to the governmental agency which controls it.

The LAFC has the right to say what should be annexed to what city, and when.

While Santa Cruz and Capitola both have seats on the LAFC, their representatives probably will have to step down to avoid a

conflict of interest, against the rules of the commission.

That leaves McCallie, Forbus, Supervisor Henry Mello, Ed Hall of Watsonville, and at-large member Louis Haber to decide the issue.

LAFC Executive Officer Ed Hanna has said the decision probably won't be made immediately, and the race may run for some time, with each side trying to show the commissioners it can best serve the area.

The annexation commission has made it clear it wants to approve only logical annexa-

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tions, and one which actually result in better governmental services supplied to the lands swallowed up.

Both Santa Cruz and Capitola have master annexation plans which show 41st Avenue and parts of Live Oak taken by each one. Capitola already has annexed some land along 41st Avenue, while Santa Cruz city boundaries are more distant.

However, Santa Cruz has been active in developing service plans for the Live Oak area. It bought the Beltz Water Company and is improving the system. It also is working with the county to provide a major sewer trunk line for the East Cliff Sanitation district from Live Oak and surrounding areas into the Santa Cruz outfall system.

Live Oak citizens organizations have watched the two cities' moves with some apprehension, and may also take a position for or against annexation.

## 12 Rescued After Ship Founders

New York (AP)—Twelve men from a research vessel that

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