

Annexation 10-25-69 Santa Cruz Annex Push Starts

SANTA CRUZ — City of Santa Cruz' long-awaited annexation push got under way with a bang Friday.

Plans were announced to annex some eight square miles of choice coastal land west of the city.

It would increase the city's size by two-thirds and includes the proposed multi-million dollar De La Cruz beach residential development which eventually would have some 7,000 residents.

The push west (up coast) is about the only direction Santa Cruz can go. It is hemmed in by the mountains and the University of California, Santa Cruz, on the north, Monterey Bay on the south, and the Live Oak area on the east. Live Oak's plans to incorporate have stymied Santa Cruz' annexation plans in that direction.

The annexation matter will be presented to the City Council Tuesday night. Approval, at least on the city level, appears to be a foregone conclusion. The property owners involved favor annexation and the councilmen in the past have expressed their desire to expand the city's boundaries.

The issue must, however, be declared by the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission.

Councilwoman Anne Garni, however, says she will oppose the measure because the city "gerrymandered" the boundaries to take in the area.

She also was upset at not being informed of the annexation plan.

"This whole thing burns me up," said Mrs. Garni. "I'm on the council and no one ever lets us (the council) know what's going on."

The annexation plan calls

for extending the corridor of land up the coast to take in the 2,100-acre De La Cruz development, which favors annexation.

Because this site is not contiguous to the city, the city could not annex a residential community unless it is connected by the annexation finger.

The land between the city and the De La Cruz project is the large Wilder Ranch prop-

erty, which recently was acquired by Sussman Properties, Inc., of Toronto, Canada.

The Sussman firm approved annexation, according to city officials.

The first annexation proposal before the council would take in five acres, including the corridor and the De La Cruz site.

The land in between would be added later, bringing to total annexation to eight square miles.