

## MID-SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

# Annexation Fuss Stirs Cityhood Talk

CAPITOLA — The Santa Cruz-Capitola annexation controversy has rekindled talk for a giant city, stretching from Santa Cruz's eastern limits to Aptos.

The proposal drew wide support when advanced four years ago, but the drive lost steam when various entities involved decided the drawbacks of corporation outweighed the benefits.

Conditions may have changed however.

One reason is the 41st avenue-Capitola road commercial area near here, site of a large shopping center complex which is expected to rival downtown Santa Cruz as a trade center.

Both Santa Cruz and Capitola are seeking to annex the area, which annually is expected to produce \$250,000 in sales tax revenue alone.

The "key" to who gets the area appears to rest with Live Oak, a residential community that lies smack in the center of the two warring cities. The County Local Agency Formations Commission will decide which city should annex Live Oak and the shopping center site.

However, the Live Oak area cannot go to either city without the consent of Live Oak voters.

Realizing this, the Live Oak Improvement Assn. has called a meeting for Jan. 30 to discuss the matter.

Ivan Netoff, association director, said representatives of the two cities will be invited to the meeting to tell why Live Oak should join their respective city.

Netoff said four possibilities will be examined at the meeting. Live Oak could join with either Santa Cruz or Capitola,

could incorporate on its own, or could join in forming a large mid-county city, he said.

The new city, Netoff said, could include Capitola, Soquel, Seacliff, Aptos and Rio del Mar.

Netoff said it is possible Capitola, because it is already incorporated, could form the nucleus of the new city.

"Purpose of this meeting is to explore all possibilities," said Netoff. "We just want to make sure residents have all the information before making up their minds."

The Local Agency Formations Commission has scheduled a meeting for Feb. 19 to discuss location of the boundary line between Santa Cruz and Capitola.

Both cities have filed a long-range annexation plans with the commission "claiming" the Live Oak area.

Ed Hanna, agency executive director, said the agency will consider such things as which city could best serve the area in question and what would be the "logical" division point for the city line geographically.

**The City of Santa Cruz would have to annex Live Oak before it would have a common boundary with the shopping center site.**

Santa Cruz officials pointed out that the city can supply the area with such things as water and sewage.

Capitola officials say their city is the logical choice for the shopping center site because of its close proximity to the city.

The agency has life and death powers in all annexation matters in that it must approve before an annexation matter is presented to voters.

Some residents of Soquel, Aptos and Rio del Mar have indicated renewed interest in the big-city idea, mainly on the basis of home rule.