

# Pool proposed for Live Oak still in works

*Continued from Page A1*

thing about it in years. Even when it was first proposed, I wouldn't have had a chance to use it until the very end of my career. If everything went right, I probably would have gotten to use it my last year, perhaps. I swam until I was 18."

The EIR is being done in conjunction with the Live Oak School District, which is planning a new middle school next door.

The report will evaluate the cumulative environmental effects of both the new school and the 17th Avenue Recreation center on such things as traffic.

Once the EIR is approved, a firm will be hired to design the center. That should take about a year, Carlson said. Then it will probably take another year to build, he added.

The master plan predicts the grand opening will be in the Spring of 1994, just 15 years after Santa Cruz Aquatic Team supporters first brought their idea for a pool to the county.

The recreation center, according to the master plan, will include the following amenities:

- A 125-by-60 foot outdoor recreational pool. It will have a moveable bulkhead that will allow "short-course" competitive swimming simultaneously with recreational swimming and diving.

- 1-meter and 3-meter diving boards and a spiral slide.

- An 18-foot-wide wading pool for toddlers with and overhead sprayer for water play.

- A playground for small children with slides, swings, and play items accessible to handicapped children.

- Trails with interpretive signs leading to Schwan Lagoon and adjacent state land.

- Parking for 220 cars, including space for horse trailers and buses.

- Lockers, concessions and multi-purpose rooms.

If the Live Oak School District builds a new middle school next door, the recreational center may eventually include a lighted adult softball field.

A much more elaborate and expensive center was designed after many community meetings, but the price tag was twice the county's budget.

There are still many in the community who like to see the proposed recreational pool lengthened to 50 meters to accommodate competitive swimming and training.

Enlarging the pool to 50 meters would involve lengthening it

by 25 feet, Carlson said. Those who are preparing the EIR have been asked to evaluate the impacts of enlarging the pool.

Carlson, who is now looking into how much money the pool will generate, noted that with a 50-meter pool, "the county could rent it out early in the morning for long-course swimming or in the evening for water polo practice."

The only 50-meter pool in the county is at UCSC.

"I would like to see a 50-meter pool there because of the multiple uses it allows," Dick Little said. "You can use half the pool for one thing and half for another. For competitive purposes, it is nice; but if it is built just for competitive purposes, it is not for the community."

"The county will find that its expenses will be less for a larger pool

because it can do so many more things with it."

The recreation center, as proposed, will cost \$6 million. Enlarging the proposed pool to 50 meters would add another \$500,000. The money for the project will come from the Live Oak Redevelopment Agency, which channels property taxes into local projects, and from park dedication fees paid by developers.

Dick Little said it was the formation of the redevelopment agency that squashed the Santa Cruz Aquatic Team plans to develop the pool and placed them into the hands of the county.

The aquatic team actually signed a 30-year lease for the 15 acres in 1980 and received \$400,000 in state grants.

The idea, Dick Little explained, was for the aquatic team to devel-

op a recreational vehicle park on part of the property. Revenues from the park would pay for the pool.

"SCAT was using the pool at Soquel High School at the time and it was too small," he said. "It wasn't up to criteria, and it still isn't. There simply are no adequate facilities in Santa Cruz County to take care of swimmers except for at UCSC, and they won't allow anyone outside of the campus to use it."

"The redevelopment agency was what really made the pool," Dick Little said. "It was never SCAT's intention to do it if the county could do it."

Even though his children are no longer on the swim team, Dick Little says he's still looking forward to completion of the 17th Avenue pool.