

# Public gets bigger voice in LO study

By CAROLYN SWIFT

The Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC) wants greater public involvement now that work has resumed toward a general plan.

Monday night, LOGPAC approved two motions to increase activity by non-voting members and reviewed a draft of a proposed survey on the Live Oak area.

Members of the LOGPAC audience who are non-voting members from the seven neighborhoods can now speak on issues relating to the general plan before a final vote is taken. Previously, audience participation has been allowed only at the conclusion of general meetings.

The committee also decided to increase the number of alternate members on the seven neighborhood groups from seven to 14, so replacements can more easily be found when there is a drop in attendance among the formal voting membership.

LOGPAC's preliminary survey to be presented to the Live Oak community was found unsatisfactory by just about everyone present Monday, although the 10-question document involved some 40 hours of work by a subcommittee appointed last week.

Most objections were to the wording rather than content of the questionnaire, which has been designed to gather community opinion on important issues relating to the formation of a general plan.

Some of the issues included in the survey were problems in Live Oak, such as housing, sewage treatment and storm drainage; the status of Live Oak as a non-incorporated county area; the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Recreation (PROS) plan and its influence on the community; park sites and commercial strip development.

LOGPAC hopes to receive sufficient reply from the public to gauge community opinion on issues to be considered in the area's general plan.

Before the questionnaire can be published, the subcommittee will now spend several weeks rephrasing some of the questions and reviewing the suggestions of the total membership.

Another upcoming agenda item will be whether or not to change the study area boundaries, which were set last year when LOGPAC was organized by the Live Oak Community Action League (LOCAL.)

Harry Hooper suggested the group review the boundaries, which he said create misleading impressions on commercial and residential development in Live Oak. The boundaries include commercial development that has been claimed by Capitola, he said, and exclude residential development in the Santa Cruz Gardens area. Hooper said this area could be influenced by the Live Oak General Plan and should be a part of the boundaries.

Hooper added he believes the present boundary lines for the general plan have created an imbalance between the number of acres devoted to commercial use and that developed for residences — and it now appears there is a greater commercial use than needed, while residential development is low.

County planner Dennis Pisila was asked to provide details about Live Oak land use, to be considered in discussion on the boundary shift.

Dennis Daughters, senior civil engineer with the county public works department, gave a short talk Monday night about programs of the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District and the condition of trunk lines in Live Oak.

LOGPAC asked Daughters to present the committee with a list of those lines that have been identified as those that overflow during rainstorms.

Daughters told the group that most of the major problems in Live Oak — where lines are above capacity at Moran Lake, lower 41st Avenue and Portola Drive and at 30th Avenue — will be taken care of within the next two years through projects budgeted for Live Oak and Aptos.

He added that there will be little difference in costs for sanitation under present conditions or under the population projections to be considered in the general plan proposals.

At the present, Daughters said,

the district has a policy that requires a review of sewer line capacity for proposed developments over ten units. If the lines to serve the development will become overloaded through the construction, the developers must either wait for the county to improve the line, or pay for the line replacement themselves.

Selection of voting members and alternates and the community survey will be topics discussed in neighborhood caucuses before the regular LOGPAC meeting next week. Neighborhoods 3, 4 and 6 will gather at Live Oak Elementary School at 7 p.m., and Neighborhood 2 will meet at 6:45 p.m.