

Live Oak

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Residents Of Live Oak File For Incorporation

By BOB LIGON
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SANTA CRUZ — Machinery was put in motion Wednesday that could lead to incorporation of the sprawling Live Oak area as Santa Cruz County's fifth city.

The action apparently has put a monkey wrench in plans by both Capitola and Santa Cruz to annex Live Oak and its 41st avenue shopping center site which, some officials say, will become the future commercial hub of the county.

The Live Oak Improvement Assn. Wednesday filed with the County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to start incorporation proceedings for the area between Santa Cruz and Capitola, and

start off with about 19,000 persons, making it the second largest city in the county. It would have an assessed evaluation of about \$25 million.

Emilio Maggiolo, president of the improvement association, said his group's purpose in starting the incorporation proceeding is to "bring this whole matter to a head."

The future of Live Oak — and the rest of the mid-county area — has been subject of a debate for the past seven years.

One proposal is to make the entire mid-county area into one giant city, taking in the communities of Aptos, Seaclyff, La Selva Beach, Rio del Mar, Capitola, and Live Oak.

Maggiolo said the big-city idea is still a possibility, if other communities want to

"We have an open mind on this," said Maggiolo.

The association's action has ended abruptly the wooing of Live Oak by Santa Cruz and Capitola.

Live Oak has let it be known that she now wants to stay single and keep her dowery — the commercially rich 41st avenue area.

Edward Hanna, LAFCO executive director, said an election eventually would decide the annexation issue, if the proceeding gets that far.

The first step, he said, is for the association to get approval of LAFCO to circulate an annexation petition. LAFCO must decide whether the city proposal is feasible, and if so, will give its okay for the petition to be circulated.

The petition must contain

If successful on this, the County Board of Supervisors must then hold a public hearing on the matter. The matter could be killed at the hearing if owners of 51 per cent of the assessed valuation in the area file formal objections.

If the measure is not killed on this level, the board would then call an annexation election. All registered voters in the area proposed for annexation would vote on the matter. A simple majority vote would be needed for approval.

The City of Santa Cruz long has sought to annex the Live Oak area, which is located on the city's eastern limits. Live Oak is included within the city's planning area.