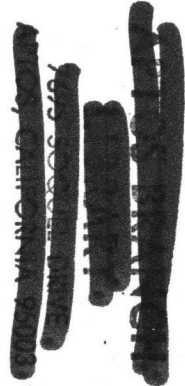


REFERENCE



# Aptos City Move Stalled For A Year

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The drive for incorporating Aptos has run into a bureaucratic traffic jam of sorts, and the incorporation election target has been moved back a year to the June 1981.

That jam involves government procedures for incorporation, according to newly-appointed Local Agency Formation Commission director Bill Davis, who recently worked out a time schedule for the cityhood move. After learning of it, Glenn Specht, chairwoman of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce incorporation committee, conceded the June 1980 election goal had been pushed back a year.

The committee for the past seven weeks has been attempting to gather some 3,000 signatures of registered voters within the

boundries of the proposed city. Assuming even the minimum government procedure time, Davis explained LAFC would need the signatures by Nov. 1. Specht said they wouldn't be ready by then.

Davis, who began his job as LAFC's director just two weeks ago, added that government procedures often take much longer than the minimum. "There's lots of things that can happen along the way to continue it," he said.

A June election date is still the target, noted Specht, in order for the proposed city of some 26,000 to get started at the beginning of a fiscal year, July 1. This would give the new city a free year of county services, she said.

"Of course, we were shooting for June one year earlier," she said, "but I'm not really disappointed. At least we now have a LAFC officer who can guide us. It was a little

frustrating before, but now at least we know the time guidelines."

Davis' appointment ended a year's search for a permanent director here. He comes from San Diego's LAFC where he was environmental administrator for two years.

The procedure to get the incorporation issue to the voters is a lengthy one, explained Davis. Upon receiving a petition, the county Elections Department has 30 days to certify the signatures. If not sufficient, petitioners are allowed 15 more days to collect more.

If the necessary number of signatures is reached, LAFC then begins to review the application, complete with public hearings. This can take up to 70 days, he said. If approved, the Board of Supervisors have another 60 days to hold public hearings. If approved again, the election must be at least 75 days later.

"So to set a June 10 election, supervisors

must make their decision no later than March 25," Davis said. "That is the absolute minimum. Frankly, decision-making agencies take more time than the minimum."

Davis admitted he has never gone all the way through an incorporation procedure before, although he has begun some. He also was involved in some large annexations in San Diego that involved more than 20,000 people.

"This (proposed incorporation) really is a different situation, though. The procedures are the same, but the conditions are different," he added.

One advantage derived from the delay, noted Specht, is the opportunity for LAFC to go through new procedures authorized in AB 8. This process determines the amount of money already collected under Proposition 13 and how much will be going to a new city, if formed.