

# Live Oak residents plead for a little consideration

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Claiming their neighborhoods have been sacrificed to development for the benefit of other areas of the county, Live Oak residents last night called for a moratorium on growth until their traffic and drainage problems can be controlled.

The Live Oak Community Association had called the meeting to discuss Live Oak's future.

Supervisors Dan Forbus and Gary Patton indicated they might support a halt to certain kinds of development, but rejected the likelihood of a moratorium.

"I would basically support a moratorium on condos and townhouses," Forbus told the

crowd of about 100 residents. "I hate that kind of living and I hate to see people squeezed in."

Live Oak needs the fees that development can bring it, Forbus said, though it was unclear just what kind of development he was talking about. A slide show narrated by Live Oak Community Association Carolyn Bartz at the outset of the meeting made it all too clear that condos and townhouses have been the name of the game in Live Oak.

Pictured were some of the remaining "nice, long narrow, country roads" that Bartz said had once meandered throughout the entire Live Oak area. Then came slides of single-family homes dwarfed by development that sprouted up around them.

"Condos are on the march in Live Oak," Bartz said.

There were pictures of condominiums built in riparian corridors and blocking drainage; developments with little or no off-street parking and with red-curbed, narrow streets prohibiting on-street parking; vehicles parked on sidewalks; and Sunny Cove Beach, literally washed away by water pouring from an illegally constructed drainage pipe.

The slides switched from ranch-style homes in spacious settings to concrete-surrounded, three-story condominiums with only tiny strips of lawn separating them from the street.

"Is this going to become Live Oak's front yard of the future?"

Bartz asked, to laughter and applause from the disgruntled audience.

The parking problem was created several years ago, Forbus said, when county officials hoped that a requirement of only one parking space per dwelling would encourage people to ride the buses. That requirement was recently changed to two, he said.

As far as the country roads that are disappearing from Live Oak, Forbus told residents that paved roads are preferable. "If you want country roads, you have to remember that a country road is almost impassable in the winter," he said.

Those explanations did little to ease the frustration of Forbus' audience, though. Resi-

dents pointed out that the urban roads they've gotten have poor drainage, no sidewalks or bike lanes, and present a grave danger to children who have to walk to school with semi-trucks roaring past them.

At one point Forbus said, "No, I wouldn't support a moratorium. I very seldom support moratoriums ... unless services are so bad that you cannot basically walk across the street."

That statement was greeted with mutterings from audience members claiming that services are indeed that bad. A moment before, Bartz had asked Forbus and Patton if they would support a building moratorium "until we actually have in hand a handle on where the

money's coming from and how we're going to fix it; until it's safe to walk across the street in Live Oak?"

Her question was greeted with loud applause from the audience. In answer, Patton read a sentence from Measure J — the county's growth control ordinance that Patton had authored and voters passed in 1978. That sentence directs the county "to ensure that new development in the unincorporated urban areas does not proceed without the adequate provision of services ..."

A couple of audience members laughed outright at what some called the obvious discrepancies between that prom-

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