

Live Oak Looks To The Future

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Live Oak, that 3,000 acres between Santa Cruz and Capitola, has been termed a dumping ground and a hodge-podge of unplanned development. Whatever it is, the people that live there, work there and are planning for that community, view it with much hope.

"It's a decent, fine place to live with an abundance of open space," says Phil Baldwin, Live Oak resident who will be representing the area come January on the County Board of Supervisors.

"A lot of vacant land is under-utilized and can be developed. What worries me is that the hodge-podge development is not very nice to look at in some areas," Baldwin added.

The supervisor-elect hit the nail on the head by zeroing in on residential useage and

vacant land. According to a recent land use study by County Planner Dennis Pisila, these are the two most common uses of the land in Live Oak, the area from Arana Gulch to Soquel Creek, not including Santa Cruz Gardens.

More than one-third of Live Oak or 37.7 per cent of the land is devoted to residential use, the study shows. This amounts to 1,154 acres alone for housing. The next most popular use of the land actually is for nothing at all. There are some 881 acres of vacant land in Live Oak, representing some 28.8 per cent of the total area.

Robin Stockwell, co-chairman for the Live Oak General Plan Advisory Committee (LOGPAC), looks upon this vacant land as an asset.

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