

Live Oak has friend on board

Live Oak area residents who believe that the majority of the Board of Supervisors pays little attention to their needs and wishes got some more ammunition at the Board of Supervisors meeting last week.

Supervisor Dan Forbus, who represents Live Oak on the board, castigated the board majority for its failure to accede to the wishes of neighborhood residents on a land use issue, and said it represented just one more example of the liberal majority's tendency to run roughshod over the rights of Live Oak residents.

Forbus was referring to neighborhood opposition to a proposal that a particular strip of land be reserved for possible use as an access path to a community park. The county planning staff had recommended that a 10-foot strip of land that would allow access

to the so-called Eddy Lane, Park off El Dorado Avenue be provided for through two private parcels of land in order to guarantee easy access to the park when and if the residential density in the area reaches its capacity.

Not only did the owners of the land protest but a petition bearing the signatures of more than 200 residents urged the board not to require the access. They asserted the pathway, if it were ever developed, would increase problems with policing the neighborhood, and pointed out that there was already a community park at Live Oak School a few blocks away.

But Supervisor Gary Patton said it would only be prudent for the board to make a provision for access to the Eddy Lane Park, which has not actually been developed yet, in case the residential buildup

in the area continues. Patton said that children should have easy access to the park when and if the density reaches a particular point.

Midcounty Supervisor Robley Levy agreed with that position, noting that existing zoning in the neighborhood has a high potential for significant increases in the population that would be served by the park.

With Chairman Joe Cucchiara joining Patton and Mrs. Levy in that position, Forbus seized the opportunity to portray Live Oak once again as the whipping boy of the liberals on the board. Forbus in fact accused the board majority of going back on its word to Live Oak residents. Forbus said at a recent meeting, at which Live Oak residents reiterated their frequent complaint that their area has become a

"dumping ground" for affordable housing under the county's growth management system, the board majority had pledged to take neighborhood sentiments into account in future land use decisions.

"I hope all you people in Live Oak tell everybody all that good rhetoric you heard a couple of weeks ago didn't mean a darn thing," Forbus said.

Not surprisingly, Forbus was supported in his stand by his fellow conservative, Watsonville Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr.

In such matters, Moore said, "I have always tried to listen to the overriding concerns of the neighborhood," even if it meant, as it sometimes had, "that it goes against my (personal) philosophy."

But the majority stood fast and the park access resolution was approved on a 3-2 vote.