

Libraries 1980-1985 Building

Mid-County Library Is Proposed

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A 4,600 square-foot regional library to serve a Mid-County area to include Capitola, Live Oak, parts of Soquel and Opal Cliffs was proposed this morning by Librarian Charles Atkins to the city-county Library Board.

Using a point on Capitola Road and 42nd Avenue, Atkins defined the service area for the new library as "everything lying within a three-mile radius of the general site."

Atkins did not recommend a site, nor did the Library Board. But the service area defined by Atkins eliminates the Capitola Road and 17th Avenue site many Live Oak residents have recommended.

Atkins told the Library Board he is proposing to increase the size of the new Capitola - Live Oak regional library and the Boulder Creek regional library so that both may include a public meeting room.

Trustee Jim Lee said he is in accord with this in reporting that several Boulder Creek residents suggested a meeting room be included in the library to be built there.

Atkins told trustees it is important to keep the Capitola - Live Oak library before the county Board of Supervisors. He noted that a site has

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been just about obtained for the Boulder Creek library but that no action has been taken in the Mid-County.

"Getting a site there is going to be difficult and very expensive," Atkins said. "Land is difficult to find there, and it will cost money."

Atkins thinks it is advantageous to a library to be sited in a shopping center, and in reply to a question from Trustee Mary Ann Kaplan, said he would be glad to see one go into a busy shopping center.

Trustee Vernon Berlin recalled there had been tentative agreement on a site in a shopping center "but the Board of Supervisors kicked the shopping center in the face and they annexed their land to Capitola and got built."

Berlin and a committee will in-

vestigate possible sites for the Capitola - Live Oak library and report back to the board.

Lee said an offer of free land for the Boulder Creek library is nearly consummated, with the Board of Supervisors scheduled to take action on zoning to permit an office use in the area.

Atkins said that the proposed Capitola - Live Oak library has an estimated cost of \$360,000, about the same as that for Boulder Creek.

Chairman Sara Bunnett got board agreement on a letter to be written later this month or early in January to get the Board of Supervisors to move forward on the Boulder Creek library.

Atkins said the county has about \$500,000 in a building account for the library system and he reported: "If we can get agreement on an architect we can hopefully go out to bid some time in the next fiscal year."

The proposed new libraries would have shelving for 20,000 volumes, a minimum 40 parking spaces, with reserved stalls for staff, the handicapped and delivery. It has been suggested they be staffed by 3.5 full-time persons, including one professional. Circulation would be in the neighborhood of 100,000 volumes annually.