

Live Oak: Love It Or Leave It—For SC

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where our tax money is spent.”

Maggiolo liked the idea of a single big city. He noted that, like it or not, fate seems to be moving Live Oak in a metropolitan direction anyway — especially with recent mandates from the state toward a

U.S. Troop Cut Of 4,800 Cited

SAIGON (AP) — The U.S. Military Command reported American troop strength in Vietnam was reduced 4,800 men last week. It also announced that six Marine Corps units totalling 1,240 men would return soon to the United States.

The command said American troop strength last Thursday totaled 250,900, the lowest since early 1966. Under the withdrawal schedule announced by President Nixon, American strength will drop to 184,000 men by Dec. 1.

In announcing the imminent withdrawal of the six Marine units, the U.S. Command reported Marine strength is now down to 4,300 men. All six units will go to Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The largest is the 585-man 1st Military Police Battalion, com-

single sewage system for the Mid- and north-county area.

“We don’t want to force anything down the people’s throats,” Maggiolo continued, “but I think some kind of city is needed to upgrade the services to the area. That’s about the only way we’ll ever get it.”

He said he was surprised by Capitola’s low ranking in the survey, but he thought the balloting was a good thing because of the interest it has created among Live Oak dwellers.

Santa Cruz City Manager Dave Koester also admitted he thought there would be a stronger Capitola vote.

He was, understandably, pleased with Santa Cruz’ showing and the large vote for a big city. “I think this is a direction we ought to look at,” he said of the big city option.

Of the high Santa Cruz vote, Koester said, “We had been led to believe by some of the loudmouths out there that nobody likes Santa Cruz. Evidently it was just a small group of people.”

It is not entirely true that Santa Cruz is straining at the bit to take over Live Oak, Koester remarked. “I think the people

have to look at the big picture — How are they best going to be served by the needed government services in that area? It seems to me that having a larger governmental unit which has the capability of handling the problems of the area is their best bet.”

One thing is sure, he continued, the area must remain intact and not have the tax-rich 41st Avenue area skimmed off by any annexation movement.

“That’s why we have always objected to Capitola’s scheme to grab off the cream and leave the skim milk.”

Santa Cruz already serves Live Oak with water, the city manager pointed out, and with the state plans for a sewer district tied to Santa Cruz, the relations between the two communities will be closer than ever.

He said that if the East Cliff Sanitation District were all within the City of Santa Cruz, the “East Cliff situation would be far, far simpler to handle.”

Koester thought more educational meetings should be held to allow the people of Live Oak to ask specific questions of experts

regarding the future of their area.

Capitola officials had little to say about the survey. Vice Mayor Frank Beccaria didn’t attach much importance to it. He said returns of the voting were too small to give a true picture of the sentiment of the area.

He thought many of the Santa Cruz votes probably came from the areas near Santa Cruz “which already consider themselves a part of Santa Cruz.”

He said a carefully planned house-to-house sampling would be necessary to get an accurate indication of the people’s wishes.

Hanna said the survey’s showing that a majority of Live Oak residents favor some kind of cityhood indicates that “The people out there had better get down to business of deciding what kind of city government they’re going to have.”

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