

SC Gardens Not Expected To Back LO Cityhood

Live Oak Improvement Association directors' have yet to discuss their incorporation plan with Santa Cruz Gardens Association directors, but the general feeling about the proposal in the hillside subdivision is "probably no," according to SCGA president Sal Basil.

Basil made clear he was making the statement "as an individual homeowner who has talked to many of the residents in the area, and not as an association representative."

He added that Santa Cruz Gardens directors and members have been invited to talk over the proposal, as well as current problems in the area, at the regular directors meeting of the Live Oak Improvement Association on Monday at 8 p.m. at Del Mar School, 1959 Merrill Drive.

Wednesday, Live Oak directors requested and received cityhood documents from the Local Agency Formation Commission, which controls annexations and incorporations. The "city" Live Oak directors are considering would include a population of 19,000, an assessed valuation of about \$25 million and would be located between Santa Cruz and Capitola city limits, and from the bay up to the foothills.

Said Basil, "I don't think Santa Cruz Gardens has been slighted by the Live Oak request. I think they (Live Oak) want to consolidate their own forces first and then ask us if we

want to join in. There's been no subterfuge. It's all been above the board, as far as I know."

Asked if he thought Santa Cruz Gardens residents would go along with Live Oak on incorporation at this time, Basil answered, "Probably no."

He added that formation of such a city would have many "growing pains at first." He said Live Oak has many problems, such as sewage, drainage and roads "That Santa Cruz Gardens doesn't have. We're a plum. Everything is already in."

"The issue won't be resolved immediately. We may find we are not equipped to handle these things now," Basil said.

He said the "Live Oak City" would have more problems developing than a city like Scotts Valley because, "It (Scotts Valley) had better facilities to accomplish their hopes with the least amount of problems."

Asked about another pending proposal, annexation to Santa Cruz, Basil termed the majority feeling was "apathetic."

"Most who are doing something about the annexation question are against it. They visualize higher taxes and only supplements to our current services," he noted.

He added a very small percentage were questioning how large a burden Santa Cruz Gardens homeowners would have to carry on bonds previously issued to Santa Cruz.

In "rough percentage estimates," Basil said those against annexation numbered 30 per cent, in favor 30 per cent, and apathetic 40 per cent.