

Moore Unable To Convince Board To Delay Watsonville Urban Line

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Supervisor Wayne Moore carried the mail for Watsonville Tuesday, but was unable to deliver it to the county Board of Supervisors in a convincing way.

Moore said Watsonville wants a six months delay in the county Planning Commission's consideration of urban service lines in the south county to give it time to prepare its case to show the proposed lines should be relaxed.

He asked his colleagues to act immediately as the commission is scheduled to consider amendments to the urban service line today.

The service lines divide the county into areas that should be allowed to develop

under urban zoning and areas that must continue to have rural zoning protection.

At Moore's request, Supervisor Gary Patton noted the county board could legally direct the commission to delay the item, but he added, "I don't think it's very proper to intervene."

Patton said it's the board's duty to protect prime agricultural land against municipal encroachment.

Supervisor Dan Forbus attempted a negotiated position and recommended the board tell the Planning Commission to delay the item for 30 days to give the city planners time to prepare their brief.

However, his idea failed on a 2-3 vote with Patton and Supervisor Joe Cucchiara and Chairwoman Robley Levy against it.

Patton at one point noted it will be three to four weeks before the commission's recommendation reaches the board and that would give Moore and Levy time to talk to Watsonville city councilmen.

While Moore represents most of that territory, during last year's reapportionment Levy picked up a small piece of the Watsonville area.

Levy said she wasn't opposed to talking to the city's councilmen, but that since the issue has to be resolved "in the public process and in open session," she preferred to have the commission's recommendation left undeterred and then meet with the city when it comes before the county board on appeal.

Behind the controversy is the jealousies

of both agencies over the territories they control.

Levy noted that not only are the county and city involved in the decision as to where the south county urban service line will be, but that also the general public may want to have a say in the issue.

Moore quickly claimed, "I'm an advocate of doing everything in public session . . . I don't even like going into the board's closed sessions."

He then turned to Patton and accused, "Mr. Patton has skifully diverted the issue from what I wanted."

Patton burst into surprised laughter.

Moore concluded by saying he would appear before the county Planning Commission to petition for the delay.