

✓ Scotts Valley - 1990
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SV council urged to annex high-school site

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SCOTTS VALLEY — City officials don't want to be left out of the loop when it comes to discussions about annexing the site of the town's first high school, but they don't want to take a lead role, either.

On Wednesday, council members asked City Manager Chuck Comstock to make sure the school board knows city officials need to be involved early if annexation is to be considered.

Superintendent Andre LaCouture said the district's No. 1 site remains 40 acres owned by the Kaiser Sand and Gravel Co. on Mount Hermon Road across from Lockhart Gulch Road. That site is just outside the city limits, and everyone agrees that if the high school is built there, it should be annexed to Scotts Valley.

In fact, Councilwoman Peggie Lopez, an early advocate of a Scotts Valley high school, said

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she would oppose the Kaiser site if the school board refused to have the land annexed into the city.

"We must be kept up to speed during negotiations for land," said Councilman Bart Cavallo. He would rather the school district look for a site within the city limits.

LaCouture has said the district does not have many options when it comes to potential sites.

Police Chief Steve Walpole urged the council to begin annexation proceedings immediately on the Kaiser site, with the stipulation that all work would stop if a deal is not consummated. By starting now, Walpole said, the city would be alerted to any potential trouble, including whether the county would oppose annexation.

"It's irrational to think the county would

want it to be under their jurisdiction when it's right outside Scotts Valley," said Mayor Michael Shulman. "I can't imagine they'd want to take on another high school."

But Walpole thinks the council should make sure the high school site is annexed into the city by the time the school opens.

"We have a lot of planning issues," said Walpole. "We don't want a situation where it's the first day of high school and who are they going to call if there's a problem."

Lopez agreed.

"We ought to pursue this, hopefully in cooperation with the school district, but if it's going to go contiguous to our boundaries I would proceed with it anyway," said Lopez.

The rest of the council, however, decided that school board members should be free to make their land deal, and then the city would work with them to annex the site if necessary.