

# SV Council unmoved by 'Glenwood Lite'

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Developer Chop Keenan may have to go back to the drawing board if he wants to get permission to build 74 homes on Glenwood Drive, all because of a little bug.

Keenan, a Palo Alto developer whose 145-home proposal was rejected by voters last June, came to the Scotts Valley City Council Wednesday night to get feedback on a downsized version of the project. It was the first time council members weighed in publicly on the plans submitted in December.

"We were very humbled by that election," Keenan said. "Our opponents' position prevailed and we are listening."

City Council members were not impressed.

"It's Glenwood Lite in terms of the number of houses but also in terms of ameni-

ties," said Councilman Randy Johnson.

A Palo Alto developer, Keenan cut back on the number of homes proposed and the amount of grading required as well as the \$8.5 million in benefits he offered to the city. He said he was still willing to donate 10 acres for a park and grade the site, although the city would have to pay for any improvements.

However, the feasibility of the park is in question because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to list the Ohlone tiger beetle as an endangered species. The agency has strongly recommended that city officials avoid putting a park next to the tiger beetle habitat on the Glenwood meadow.

"If this land is not viable, what's Plan B?" asked Councilwoman Sheryl Ainsworth.

Mayor Chuck Walker agreed, calling the proposed park site "a white elephant." He said he would rather see the developer make a contribution toward construction

of a community center and road improvements on Glenwood Drive.

Councilwoman Stephany Aguilar suggested an alternative site, with a footbridge linking it to Siltanen Park.

In addition to the 10-acre park, Keenan offered to set aside 162 acres as open space and two miles of trails. But City Council members said they weren't sure they wanted to take on the responsibility of managing that property.

Keenan also proposed to pay for curbs, gutters and sidewalks along Glenwood Drive to the development site, which is across the street from a just-opened high school. However, he did not offer to contribute toward more than \$1.2 million of additional traffic improvements that city planner Laura Kuhn said are needed.

Opponents of the development declined the opportunity to speak in order to hear what the council had to say. But it's clear the opposition hasn't softened.

In an interview before the City Council discussion, Nick Van Bruggen, who was active in the Friends of Glenwood campaign to defeat the development, contended Keenan was wasting the city's time.

"The law said you can't come back with a substantially similar plan," Van Bruggen said. "It sure looks similar to me."

Open-space advocates would rather see the meadow spared. That could happen, Van Bruggen said, if California voters approve Proposition 12, a state parks bond measure on March 7. He said the measure includes \$12 million to buy the Glenwood property.

Kuhn said the revised proposal, like the first, is vulnerable to a referendum because the developer is proposing something other than the golf course and 276 houses approved by a different City Council several years ago.

"There is this old plan and they get caught in that," she said.