

# Scotts Valley annexation nixed

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SCOTTS VALLEY — It was the case of a higher power mandating headaches.

The Scotts Valley council, city staff, and residents spent the past three months trying to convince the Local Agency Formation Commission it made a mistake when it put 52 acres along the northwest side of Lockwood Lane up for annexation to the city of Scotts Valley.

Nearly all of the residents in the area repeatedly said they don't want to be in Scotts Valley and council members say they won't force anyone into the city.

"We don't want to capture you," said Councilman Ray Carl.

Wednesday night, the council denied the annexation and will wait to see what LAFC does at its April 2 meeting.

The problem began in December when LAFC members Gary Patton, Robley Levy and Robert Garcia parlayed an 11-acre annexation into into a 63-acre annexation.

Councilwoman Barbara Leichter, who sits on the LAFC commission, voted against the larger annexation.

LAC Executive Director Pat McCormick said Wednesday the majority of his commission "felt it (expanded annexation) was a logical boundary.

"It will be interesting to see at the April 2 meeting if the fact that the people don't want to be in the annexation area changes the commission's mind."

The original annexation request came from the Boyd family, which owns 11 acres along the southeast side of Lockwood Lane at the city line.

The family wants the land to be inside the city of Scotts Valley so it can proceed to build a 25-unit subdivision.

While neighbors of the proposed subdivision say they are worried about the impact of traffic on Lockwood Lane, which already gets heavy use from motorists between Graham Hill Road and Mount Hermon Road, the project apparently is welcome to some council members.

Mayor Joe Miller said, "This is a striking example of a good project."

Other Harold Boyd told the council, "This is a project any city would

be happy to have."

Boyd said he was tired of governments' handling of his 2-year-old proposal, saying he's been a victim of "all these boards running this country on our money."

Boyd asked the council to deny the 63-acre annexation so he and his family can reapply with the original annexation request.

Resident Ray Webster said he turned in protest petitions from 26 percent of the property owners in the expanded annexation area.

Any amount more than a 25-percent protest gives the council legal grounds to deny an annexation.

Had 50 percent of the registered voters in the area protested, the annexation would have been automatically denied.

Webster said he could easily have gotten protests from 50 percent of the registered voters but officials had told him to collect protests petitions only from landowners.

He told the council that if it approved, the annexation and put it to an election of the people in the area, "you will be wasting your time and money."

Lockwood Lane area resident Bob Wandruff said he was concerned

the 25-unit subdivision would add unbearable traffic congestion.

He said the environmental study on the project was wrong in stating the traffic increase would be minor.

The council also worried about taking over portions of the Lockwood Lane roadway as it needs some repair and gets heavy use.

Miller asked if the city could annex the property and leave the road maintenance in the hands of the county.

McCormick said it was LAFC's policy to keep authority and responsibility in the same hands.

Miller said there is a stretch of Mount Hermon Road going out of Scotts Valley where the city owns property on both sides of the road but the county does the maintenance.

McCormick advised him, "I'm aware of that and you're aware of that but do you want to spread it around?"

Councilman Phil Liberty moved for denial of the annexation, saying, "I'm convinced by the preponderance of evidence the people in the area don't want this."

The annexation was denied unanimously.