

Council to hear plans for Franich property

STAFF REPORT

WATSONVILLE — The Watsonville City Council will hear long-awaited plans tonight for the development of the 72-acre Franich property annexed in December, 1993, into the city after a 12-year battle.

Thatcher & Thompson Architects, working for the Franich family, will present a preliminary plan for the entire tract that will include a mixture of low-income housing and other types of homes, two city parks and an elementary school.

The preparatory plan sets aside nine acres for affordable housing, a mix of other types of housing, a 10-acre school site, an agricultural buffer zone, a 16-acre community park and an extension of Bridge Street.

A neighborhood meeting is anticipated for November for a discussion of the issues involved. Specific plans are expected to be developed with the architects over the

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winter, with input from city staff, city council, the city planning commission and community members.

A public hearing on the plans would then be presented in April, with May 13 targeted for final approval.

Other council business to-

night includes a public hearing on the Second Street Assessment District.

Many residents in the area have shown support for the assessment, complaining of neglected sidewalks and streets at a preliminary hearing several weeks ago.

The council also is expected to approve a \$1.3 million sewer repair project, part of the continuing repairs to damage caused by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.