

Glenwood rejected

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The controversial Glenwood residential development project failed to win the support of the city Planning Commission Tuesday night.

After 10 meetings and many hours of discussion, the commission was split over the 67-home development on 195 acres off Glenwood Drive. The project is a downsized and redesigned version of a 145-home development nixed by voters in a referendum last year.

Chairman Michael Shulman contended the benefits outweighed the impacts, citing the 167 acres of open space offered by the developer plus an endowment, and commissioner Jackie Heald agreed. Commissioners Alecia Biddison and Lawrence Fogel argued that the impacts on the environment weren't worth the benefits.

Commissioner Mark Newton, a biologist by training, was torn over the open space, but voted to deny the project, citing the "interconnectedness" of species.

"In places like Santa Cruz County, we need to protect habitat" he said.

Neighbors applauded the decision.

"I feel the need to kiss somebody," said Roland Krevitt, who lives in the Summerhill area off Glenwood Drive.

Developer Kerry Williams said she was "not surprised but disappointed."

She added, "We have done everything we've been asked to do.... Unfortunately, some members of the Planning Commission have taken a position that we think is unfair and unreasonable under the law."