

SV council approves Glenwood

Scotts Valley 1990
Opponents vow to continue fight against housing project

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SCOTTS VALLEY — The City Council approved the upscale Glenwood development project 3-2 Thursday night, paving the way for 145 homes on one of the city's last remaining open parcels.

The roughly 75-acre Glenwood meadow is across the street from the Scotts Valley high school now under construction. Glenwood has been one of the city's most controversial land-use issues in recent history.

And the debate may not be over; opponents announced shortly before the vote they are launching a drive to collect signatures for a referendum, possibly bringing the project to a city vote.

Councilman Bart Cavallaro, who has often voiced support for the project, voted yes, along with

11-13-98
councilmembers Randy Johnson and Chuck Walker. Mayor Stephany Aguilar and Councilwoman Sheryl Ainsworth cast the dissenting votes.

Cavallaro praised the project because about 70 percent of the Glenwood land would be left as open space, including several miles of hiking trails. He spoke of people who wanted Scotts Valley to be "a rural type community. It's a city with city needs. There have been good and bad developments here. This is a good development."

Johnson said the project would pay for intersection improvements that are badly needed in light of the new school.

"We don't have a whole lot of money," he said. "Where's it going to come from?"

Please see GLENWOOD — BACK PAGE

Glenwood project approved

Continued from Page A1

Scathing words came from Ainsworth, although she prefaced her remarks by praising some aspects of the project. She said it required too many General Plan amendments, had excessive visual impact and too many houses.

Aguilar, on the other hand, said very little. "You know where I stand," offered the longtime plan critic, who had allowed Glenwood

opponents to use her name on a flier.

The majority of people who spoke at Planning Commission and City Council public hearings on the project opposed the project. They cited environmental-impact concerns, such as fragmentation of the meadow's prairie habitat, and argued the meadow should be left as open space.

Jeff Ringold, a consultant who is aiding the opposition, said, "They are acting with the knowledge that the majority of the community does-

n't support this project."

Supporters, including a number of local business owners, countered that the land was zoned for development, and noted that the latest option was much less intensive than a previous plan that would have put a golf course and more homes on the meadow.

Project developer Chop Keenan spoke of a "long arduous process, but you get a better project by going through that." He described the project as a compromise plan.