Scotts Valley OKs Grading Ordinance

Scotts Valley city councilmen Wednesday gave final approval to a comprehensive grading, erosion control and sediment control ordinance which goes into effect in 30 days.

The 29-page ordinance was approved by the council only after the state Regional Water Quality Control Board staff threatened to take some strict measures against the city if an erosion control, grading and sediment control measure wasn't adopted.

The council in October tabled consideration of the ordinance adopted Wednesday, believing that the Uniform Building Code sufficiently covered erosion control, grading and sediment control.

But according to the Regional Board staff, the Uniform Building Code wasn't sufficient.

The ordinance preferred by the Regional Board staff was the ordinance adopted by the council Wednesday night, except that the council had removed sections on riparian corridors and on design standards for private roads from the ordinance.

These sections were removed so that the council could review them further and incorporate them in a separate policy.

John Goni, associate engineer for the Regional Board, said this morning that it was acceptable to the Regional Board staff for these sections to be removed as long as they are eventually made into a city ordinance.

The vote to approve the grading, erosion control and sediment control ordinance was 4-0, with Councilman Rey Retzlaff abstaining because he is involved in a grading business.

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