

Environmental Impact

City's EIR called 'severely deficient' by LAFCO chief

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The environmental impact report on Watsonville's proposed General Plan is "severely deficient" and should not be accepted as documentation for any annexation to the city, the head of the agency that reviews annexations said in a report.

Pat McCormick, executive director of the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission, said in a report to

LAFCO members that the report inadequately addresses alternative growth directions.

The environmental impact report for the city's proposed General Plan is in the "draft" stage and is still being reviewed.

McCormick's report will be reviewed by LAFCO today at 7:30 p.m. at Watsonville City Hall.

The meeting is also a time for

LAFCO to hear public testimony on the draft environmental impact report on Tony Franich's proposal to annex his 72-acre orchard on East Lake Avenue to the city so homes can be built there.

McCormick said he has some concerns about the Franich EIR, but they aren't as serious as his reservations about the General Plan EIR.

"The range of alternatives analyzed in detail in the draft EIR may be too limited," McCormick said.

LAFCO's interest in the city General Plan deals with potential development outside the city limits.

The Franich annexation proposal requires approval by the city and LAFCO.

— Lane Wallace