

LAFC Won't Consider SV Annexation Request

A bid to get the Local Agency Formation Commission to reconsider its denial of a major annexation to Scotts Valley has failed due to a legal technicality.

Commissioners were told by Assistant County Counsel Jim Ritchie Wednesday that they cannot legally reconsider an annexation request that has been denied.

The commission, Ritchie said, can only reconsider requests that it has approved.

With that explanation, commissioners were unable to consider a request by Gene Dodrill and Robert Taylor for a reconsideration of their proposals to annex land to Scotts Valley.

In June, commissioners denied Dodrill's request to annex 96 undeveloped acres along Green Hills Road into the city and denied a request by members of Landmark Baptist Church to annex 2.5 acres also on Green Hills Road into the city. Taylor was representing Landmark Baptist Church in the request for reconsideration.

Both requests were denied in 3-1 votes, with Commissioners Gary Patton, Robley Levy and Stan Nielsen against the annexations. In explaining his votes, Nielsen said he saw no real

reason to put the steep, undeveloped land into the city of Scotts Valley.

Both the Dodrill land and the Landmark Baptist Church property are located to the south of the Sequoia Research Park on the east side of Highway 17.

Commissioner Bill Johnston, mayor of Watsonville, was the sole supporter of the annexation requests. Commissioner Friend Stone, then a Scotts Valley councilman, abstained from the vote in June.

Pat McCormick, the commission's executive director, was directed by commissioners Wednesday to write to Dodrill and Taylor and explain that the commission couldn't reconsider their requests.

Dodrill and Taylor must wait a year in order to make another request for annexation.

In other matters during the commission's meeting Wednesday, commissioners approved a request to annex 187 acres in the Nicasio Way area into the Soquel Fire Protection District.

The vote approving this annexation was 3-0, with Commissioners Johnston, Michael Routh and David Stevenson in attendance.