

WATSONVILLE - Annexation

Franich ^{RP}annexation ^{f.1}finally gets go-ahead

Tony Franich's 13-year effort to annex his property to Watsonville ended today when the county Local Agency Formation Commission approved the annexation.

The annexation appeared to have been approved in December, but the city of Watsonville later objected to language about a required buffer zone between potential developments on the Franich site and adjacent agricultural land.

The commissioners today approved new language that deletes specific reference to the 200-foot buffer that triggered the city's objections. Some sort of buffer zone will still be required when the

property is developed.

Franich has an agreement with the city that calls for part of his 72-acre parcel to be used for low-income housing and a park.

The land is on East Lake Avenue just east of East Lake Village shopping center.

LAFCO Commissioners Gary Patton and Bob Garcia voted against the annexation. Patton called piecemeal annexation of agricultural land a "betrayal of the public trust."

Commissioners Gina Koshland, Mick Routh and Ray Belgard voted for the annexation and the modifications.