

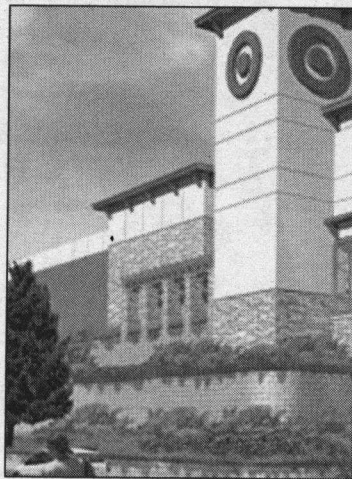
Target Drops Plans for Scotts Valley Store

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Target no longer plans to build a store on La Madrona Drive in Scotts Valley's Gateway South area. It notified city staff in a single-sentence letter that the company is no longer under contract with developer Title II for the project, said community development director Susan Westman.

The decision is the latest chapter in an often contentious development effort. The announcement two years ago that Target was looking to build on the outskirts of the small city drew supporters and opposition in equally strong measures.

The plan calls for a 143,000-square-foot retail store and 517 associated parking spaces, including 57,650 square feet of covered park-



ing, which is larger than the Gateway South overall plan currently allows.

The developer was asked for a supplemental environmental impact report that included not only such standard categories of land and traffic, but also potential economic impact.

The draft of that report was

released in September, with the review period just ending.

Title II told Westman that it wishes to proceed with the review of the report substituting a general retail occupant for Target.

In response, the city is allowing another 45 days for community comment. The deadline is expected to be Dec. 21.

In the midst of the EIR work, Title II defaulted on its property taxes, which include improvement fees to cover city bond payments.

The city began foreclosure proceedings before Title II came up with the roughly \$270,000 payment in early October. Work on the EIR had also been halted earlier in the year as Title II sought financing to cover those costs. ■