watsonvine, oo main st. Both meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

Watsonville annexation to be reconsidered by LAFC

Annexation of 74 acres of agricultural land to the city of Watsonville will be reconsidered by the Local Agency Formation Commission during a special meeting Monday beginning at 4 p.m. at Capitola City Hall.

Commission Chairman Stanley Nielsen called for the special meeting after receiving requests for reconsideration of the controversial annexation of an apple orchard

owned by Anthony Franich.

By state law, the commission must reconsider any of its actions upon receipt of a request for reconsideration, according to Commission Executive Director Pat McCormick.

Dave Bockman, representing the local chapter of the Sierra Club, and Mary Hammer, representing the local Resource Defense Fund, both have asked the commission to reconsider its approval and deny the request by the city of Watsonville to annex the land located to the east of the present city limits.

Watsonville City Manager John Radin also has requested, on behalf of the City Council, that the commission amend its approval so that the city doesn't have to hold a public hearing before giving final consideration to the annexation.

McCormick explained that under state law, the commission can waive the public hearing process.

The annexation was opposed by Supervisors Gary Patton and Joe Cucchiara, both members of the commission. They claimed that allowing annexation of this land for a residential development is the beginning of the end to farmland in the Pajaro Valley.