Watsonville wants to lessen influence

A public hearing on the city of Watsonville's request to decrease the size of its sphere of influence is scheduled for Nov. 3.

The city formally presented its request to the Local Agency Formation Commission Wednesday. Commissioners referred it to Commission Execuitve Officer Pat McCormick for environmental review and set the public hearing.

On Nov. 3, members of the public not

only will be able to comment on the proposal to decrease the sphere of influence from 6,819 acres to 5,070 acres, but also will be able to comment on Mc-Cormick's environmental findings.

At the November meeting, commissioners will decide whether the proposed sphere of influence needs an environmental impact report or whether a negative declaration can be approved stating no environemental impact report is needed. The commission last November adopted in concept a sphere of influence for Watsonville showing the current 3,650-acre city growing to 6,819 acres by 1990. The approval was made pending completion of an environmental impact report.

However, the Watsonville City Council recently requested the smaller sphere of influence on the basis that it doesn't believe the city will grow to 6,819 acres in the next seven years.

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