

Tai annexation before council

✓ Watsonville - Annexation
By VICTORIA MANLEY

STAFF WRITER

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WATSONVILLE — Land use will be a topic once again at the Watsonville City Council meeting Tuesday, when council members are planning to open the floor to the public and discuss the annexation of 646 acres west of Lee Road, known as the Tai property.

City staff recommends the approval of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed annexation — named after San Francisco land developer Vincent Tai — in hopes that it will be found legally adequate to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

In July, the council voted to pass the EIR back to its author, Jones and Stokes, Inc., to seek an independent review. Jones and Stokes,

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an environmental consulting firm, returned it with confirmation that the report was ready for city approval, giving council members the next move. The council then voted to open the pre-zoning request to a public hearing, which will take place Tuesday.

Other items expected to be approved and discussed include the following:

- Members will discuss the benefits of having representation on an advisory committee for the Watsonville Community Hospital. John Friel, president and CEO of the hospital, requested three council members serve on the committee, which is being formed to study a "strategic alliance" with a large health care corporation.

- Members will hear an oral re-

port on, and discuss the progress of, the Latino Strategic Planning Collaborative of Santa Cruz County's strategic plan, "Unidos Para Nuestro Futuro/United For Our Future."

- A presentation by the architects of the proposed developments to be made on the Franich property in the East Lake Avenue area will be heard. Plans include the development of 394 to 577 housing units, sale of 10 acres of land to the school district for the construction of an elementary school and donation of eight acres to the city to create a community park. There will be time allotted for public input.

- The council expects to award more than \$139,000 to the Don

Chapin Company for curb, gutter and sidewalk work on Hyde Street from Southern Circle to Ninth Street, and to reject all bids received for the remodeling of City Hall.

- The approval of a two-year agreement with City Clerk Lorraine Washington to remain in her position is expected.

- The Redevelopment Agency is expected to approve an agreement to allow the sale and removal of the Palmtag House at 20 West Front St.

- The Redevelopment Agency is to hear an update report on the Red Roof Inn to be constructed at the corner of Beach and Lee roads, and will be requested to issue an extension on some of development conditions.