

Boulder Creek 1990

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Boulder Creek OKs town plan

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BOULDER CREEK — The process of agreeing on a town plan came to a quiet resolution Tuesday, as a few dozen people gathered in the town's Recreation Hall to approve a document that will set planning policy for their town for the coming decades.

Designing a town plan for the redwood-encircled San Lorenzo Valley town has been marked by large and sometimes tempestuous public meetings.

What had been billed as the final town plan meeting last May erupted in controversy over the question of where future business development should go. Residents near the downtown core commercial area opposed expansion into their neighborhoods, and merchants said the expansion is crucial to the community's economic vitality.

Following that meeting, a small group of residents and merchants met in September to work out details that both sides could live with.

Copies of the plan as they had revised it were mailed to townspeople earlier this month.

The fact that few people showed up at Tuesday's meeting shows

that the bugs have been worked out of the plan, community leaders said.

"We really came to a good compromise," said Lori Wood, who represented residents of the Railroad/Middleton avenues area.

Wood said an important part of the compromise was the work done by San Lorenzo Valley Supervisor Fred Keeley.

"I'd like to see Fred commended for this," said Wood. "He worked really hard and it wasn't easy. He deserves a good pat on the back."

Keeley said he was "very pleased" the community had reached accord on the plan and credited the hard work of the community members who hammered out the compromise last month.

"Last evening was marked by issues of clarification rather than conflict," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with the community on funding and financing strategies for all the town plans."

Next stop for the plan is the county planning commission, and then the Board of Supervisors.

If the plan passes both bodies, it becomes part of the county's General Plan and will determine how future development will proceed.

Still to be determined is how the town will pay for the \$4 million to \$5 million worth of improvements.