

Interest soars in Glenwood vote

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✓ **SCOTTS VALLEY** — Nearly a third of the city's 6,500 voters have asked for absentee ballots for the Glenwood Meadow referendum, more than double the county average.

The numbers prove what many Scotts Valley residents already suspected — that this controversial 145-home subdivision plan is the hottest development topic in recent city history.

"It is definitely something that is affecting everyone who lives in Scotts Valley," said Gail Pellerin of the county Elections Office. "It is something that is affecting their own personal backyards. Those tend to bring out a lot of interest."

In November, the City Council approved the upscale development for a meadow in Scotts Valley's north end,

but opponents collected enough petitions to force the June 8 referendum vote.

Since then, both sides have been sending out a flurry of publicity mailers, aimed especially at fence-sitting voters.

As of Wednesday, 2,182 Scotts Valley residents had asked for absentee ballots, about 32 percent of the city's voting pool of 6,509 people, with 1,088 people having already voted.

The average for absentee-ballot requests countywide for special elections is about 15 percent, Pellerin said. For general elections, the number hovers around 25 percent.

Scotts Valley typically has high voting turn-out, and strong interest in absentee ballots, perhaps because many of its residents commute to Silicon Valley and can't take the time to visit the polls

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on election days, Pellerin said.

Voters have until June 1 to return their ballot requests to the county. Pellerin said voters can fax her office the information, bring it to her in person or make sure it arrives by mail by 5 p.m. that day. Otherwise the office cannot mail a ballot, although a voter could still come in and vote over the counter some time before the polls close at 8 p.m. on June 8.

The fax number is 454-2448. The address is 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

On the official ballots, voters will vote yes or no on two separate Glenwood measures. Measure O concerns the rezoning and development agreement for the Glenwood project, while Measure P concerns an amendment to the city's general plan that would allow the development.