

# Glenwood foes lose fight

By DAN WHITE

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SANTA CRUZ — A Superior Court judge has ruled that backers of the Glenwood housing project don't have to change their ballot argument on an upcoming referendum.

Judge Robert Yonts rejected Glenwood foe Nick Van Bruggen's petition to change the wording that says the City Council had scaled the project down from 276 homes to 145.

Van Bruggen contended that Glenwood supporters created a false impression that the City Council had dramatically scaled back the project as a compromise when in fact only minor changes had been made.

Keenan Land Co.'s Glenwood proposal never included 276 homes. That figure comes

from an unrelated proposal submitted by another developer in the early '90s.

Glenwood supporters say the comparison between the two projects is valid because it puts the latest plan in perspective.

"The Glenwood opposition has tried to repeatedly attack our credibility," Glenwood backer Janine Charlton said Tuesday. She said the ruling "affirms that we have been accurately reporting the facts."

She described the legal action as "a deliberate attempt on their part to prevent us from getting out the information," Charlton said.

Environmental consultant Jeff Ringold, who works for the opposition, said the statement

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about a reduction in homes was misleading.

"When something is grossly mischaracterized, that's when I become concerned," Ringold said.

The 276 homes were approved in 1991. That project fell through, however, and a Dutch bank foreclosed on the land. That paved the way for Keenan Land Co of Palo Alto. to propose its smaller project.

Ringold said this project, combined with the high school being built across the street, would have a greater impact than the previous

plan.

"We want people to understand how intensive this project really is," Ringold said.

The court fight is the latest in a series of squabbles about the Glenwood project.

Detractors say it will drain city resources and encircle a meadow with development. Proponents say it will provide tax revenue while preserving open space.

The referendum has been set for June 8.

Project opponents forced the vote by gathering the signatures of 10 percent of the city's registered voters.