

SV council hears public discuss Glenwood project

Scotts Valley 1990
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SCOTTS VALLEY — Supporters and opponents alike speaking about a proposed 147-unit Glenwood housing development went high-tech Wednesday to get their points across to City Council members.

Speakers used slide shows and movie presentations showing picturesque Scotts Valley, carefully sketched blue prints and even obnoxious tractors. More than 100 residents packed the Scotts Valley City Council Chamber for the hearing on the Environmental Impact Report for the proposed project, slated for one of Scotts Valley's last parcels of undeveloped land.

About 41 signed up to speak, including many on behalf of Friends of Glenwood, a group opposed to the project.

Testimony will continue at a meeting Oct. 21.

"A professor once told me the appropriate thing to have is the city in your front yard and the country in your backyard," said landscape architect Anthony Guzzardo.

"I think it's an opportunity here to get the best of two worlds. If housing is to be developed, this is the way to do it."

But some residents disagreed.

"Have our lives actually been improved by the coming of Borland and the coming of Seagate?" asked Stuart

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Roe, who showed a video of tractors developing land. "I don't feel that. I feel loss."

Andrew Brownstone, who has lived in the area for 25 years, also spoke in opposition.

"We have no view of the wonderful rolling hills, wildflowers, redwoods, old growth oak trees or any of the varied wildlife, but it is only a good walk or short drive away," he said. "Knowing it is there for us to enjoy, as a place to retreat ... presents for us a huge increase in the quality of life."

Kerry Williams, Glenwood project manager, said of the 224 acres included in the project, 150 will be open space and recreational fields.

"This is free parks," said supporter Robert Charlton. "This is what we would like to have in our town and it will be there for us."

Some audience members and one council member expressed disappointment that Mayor Stephany Aguilar's let opponents use her quotes in a flier. The quote read, "I have extremely serious concerns about this development proposal. A strong public turnout at the City Council is essential if we are to turn back the project."

"For you, the mayor of our city, to come forth publicly with your preconceived opinion prior to taking public comment is inappropriate behavior," said resident Wendy Brannan.