

Scotts Valley to consider cigarette-machine ban

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Proposals to ban cigarette machines, reconstruct the Granite Creek Bridge, and widen Bluebonnet Lane are set for tonight's City Council meeting.

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.

A proposed ban on cigarette vending machines will be heard at 6:30 p.m. If the ban passes, it would follow in the steps of the recent cigarette vending machine bans passed by the county of Santa Cruz and the city of Watsonville.

Watsonville's measure banned cigarette machines

entirely. The measure passed by the county, however, exempted bars restricted to people over 21.

Scotts Valley has only one over-21 bar, and that bar does not have a vending machine, said Acting Chief of Police Tom Bush, who is asking for a full ban on the machines.

In supporting the measure, Bush said, "The restriction of access to tobacco products by minors is one of the key components in a comprehensive tobacco-use prevention program for youth."

A long list of community groups are also supporting the ban.

Also set for discussion is the proposed reconstruction of Granite Creek Bridge. The bridge was damaged in the October 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and the

emergency bridge built next to it was the subject of controversy, including a grand jury investigation. That investigation cleared the city of wrongdoing but advised the city to clarify its conflict-of-interest policies.

Plans were drawn to replace the original two-lane bridge with a four-lane bridge. When federal funds for the expansion fell through, however, the financially besieged city decided to go back to a two-lane bridge.

Estimated cost of a four-lane bridge was \$653,000. A re-designed two-lane bridge was estimated to cost \$437,000.

When the matter came to the council two months ago, however, council members wondered why the savings weren't more significant.

At tonight's meeting, a consultant from Nolte and Associates, the design firm, will be on hand to answer those questions.

Among items expected to be approved are resolutions moving along the progress of a \$533,000 assessment district to widen and improve Bluebonnet Lane from Bean Creek Road west to the senior center.

The project has been opposed by neighbors who fear the project will turn their quiet street into a major traffic bypass between Mount Hermon Road and Scotts Valley Drive.

If approved, the resolutions would set Aug. 21 for public comment on the project.