

# Watsonville City Council takes on growth plan tonight

*Watsonville - Growth*  
Citizens groups hope council members will endorse initiative

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT *3 26 02*

The Watsonville City Council convenes tonight to discuss several items — among them, the urban growth initiative. The discussion on the growth plan is expected to get under way around 7 p.m.

The urban growth initiative was developed by Action Pajaro Valley and a variety of local community groups and includes a large expansion of Watsonville's city limits northwest of the airport near Larkin Valley Road and Buena Vista Drive. Three smaller annexations are proposed: two on the city's east side and one between Beach Street and Harkins Slough Road.

The initiative took about three years to put together. Action Pajaro Valley is hoping the council will endorse the initiative before it heads to a ballot.

"We're just hoping that they (the City Council) fully support the citizens moving this initiative forward," said Lisa Dobbins of Action Pajaro Valley. "That's our big hope."

Tonight's meeting is the first opportunity for residents to review the plan that would allow for the construction of 4,000 new homes over the course of the next 24 years.

The urban growth boundary would set limits on which land the city can annex and sets a deadline for annexation of 20 to 25 years. If the deadline is not met, then Watsonville is not able to extend its boundary lines.

Also up for discussion tonight is a staff report on the agreement for development of the 200 block of Main Street as well as a presentation by the developer Griffin Realty and an opportunity for public input.

The redevelopment agency is also being asked to approve a west side industrial streetscape plan that would include a number of beautification projects along West Beach Street, Industrial Road and Walker Road.