

# Deal reached on Franich bill

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A deal was struck this morning between interested parties in a controversial bill that would have allowed Watsonville attorney Tony Franich to sidestep local control in annexing his 72-acre apple orchard to Watsonville.

City officials have agreed to sit down with the Local Agency Formation Commission and "write out a memorandum of understanding" as to what the process will entail in refileing an annexation application with LAFCO, State Assemblyman Sam Farr said today. He made the announcement after meeting behind closed doors in Sac-

ramento with representatives of various sides in the issue.

In the meantime, the Franich bill, authored by State Assemblyman Daniel Hauser, D-Arcata, will be amended to become a "shell" of its former self, and be held in abeyance in a joint Senate/Assembly "conference committee," Farr said.

The agreement is that the bill will be held in the committee until the end of the Legislative session in August and allowed to quietly die, he said, unless there is a breakdown in talks between the city and LAFCO. In the event of a breakdown, the bill could be amended and sent to the governor, Farr said.

"Now the debate is going to

be between the city and LAFCO and certainly, Mr. Franich will be involved in that too," Farr said.

Besides himself, Farr said this morning's meeting included Watsonville City Manager John Radin, Councilman Rex Clark, Franich, attorney Tim Morgan, County Supervisor Gary Patton, Hauser and State Assemblyman Dominic Cortese, D-San Jose.

Farr said everyone involved was amenable to working out a compromise concerning the bill, which was perceived not only as an attempt to sidestep local control, but has been blamed for increasing the resentment between the city and county.