

Annexation Confrontation Is Postponed

Most county supervisors believe May 4 is too soon to meet with Watsonville officials about the redevelopment-annexation feud between the two governments.

Watsonville Supervisor Wayne Moore Tuesday unsuccessfully tried to convince his colleagues to meet with the Watsonville City Council on the day of final public hearings on plans Watsonville has for redevelopment of part of its city.

Redevelopment is a means that a local municipality has of capturing a greater percentage of an area's tax revenues in order to put those monies back into betterment projects. By capturing the money, it takes tax revenues from other agencies in the same tax pool. In this case that includes the county government.

Along with that issue, the county has the right to hold up future annexations by municipalities since state codes say that a county and city have to agree on the tax split of new lands that are taken into cities.

Moore failed in his attempt to have supervisors go to Watsonville May 4 and sit in with the City Council which probably will approve the redevelopment plans.

Supervisor Gary Patton said he suspected it would be more of "a circus" than a meaningful meeting of the political minds.

"In past times these have been like gladiator events, the public gathered to cheer on its heroes," Patton said.

The board finally agreed unanimously to send Supervisors' Chairman Robley Levy to meet with Watsonville Mayor Bill Johnston to set up a joint meeting and to ask the city to continue its decision on redevelopment past the May 4 meeting.

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