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Supervisors approve 635-unit Boronda plan

Salinas had asked them to delay their decision

By **ZACHARY STAHL**
The Salinas Californian

Monterey County supervisors Tuesday unanimously approved a community plan for more than 600 housing units on what's now farmland on the western edge of Salinas.

Work on an environmental impact report will now get under way for the 200-acre area in south Boronda.

Juanita Parea, a member of the Boronda Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee, said the mix of affordable and market-rate homes will fill a void for future generations of Boronda residents.

"If there is a housing development in the future in Boronda, I want my kids to live near me," Parea told supervisors.

Boronda now has 332 housing units. The development would nearly triple that number by adding 635 units.

Paul Schiveley, chairman of the citizens' committee, said adding that many homes can cause traffic problems.

"We realize that there is going to be a great traffic impact on the Boronda community," Schiveley said.

The developer and the county's redevelopment agency, however, would have to pay for the extension of Rossi Street to Boronda Road, along with other road and sewer improvements.

Extending Rossi would lessen industrial traffic associated with the Westridge Shopping Center that now runs through Boronda, said Jared Ikeda, senior administrative analyst for the county's redevelopment agency. The project will also include 411,000 square feet of commercial and industrial buildings, a park

WHAT'S NEXT

A draft environmental-impact report for a development of more than 600 homes on land west of Rossi Street and North Davis Road in Salinas is expected to be completed in June.

and about 60 acres of open space surrounding Markley Swamp.

The plan was approved despite a letter from the city of Salinas asking supervisors to postpone their decision until the development plan can be presented to the City Council.


"My City Council hasn't had the opportunity to view this plan in any shape or form," said Planning Manager Bob Richelieu.

The letter says that the community plan conflicts with the city and county's general plans and that the development would impact city services and traffic.

Supervisor Lou Calcagno said he regrets that Salinas was not more involved with the project but said the EIR process will give the city an opportunity to comment.

Contact Zachary Stahl at zstahl@salinas.gannett.com.

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