

# City delays 190-home project

## San Marcos Highlands approvals postponed indefinitely over environmental concerns

By [David Garrick \(/staff/david-garrick/\)](#) 4:25 p.m. Jan. 13, 2014



San Marcos City Hall — *San Marcos City Hall*

SAN MARCOS — A 190-home subdivision proposed for northern San Marcos suffered a setback Monday when city officials postponed considering the project based on complaints there hasn't been adequate study of how it will affect traffic, sewer capacity and other issues.

City officials delayed indefinitely a Planning Commission hearing scheduled for Monday night on the San Marcos Highlands project and a City Council hearing scheduled for later this month.

They said the delays were prompted by a regional agency that approves property annexations demanding a new environmental impact report, which is typically costly and time-consuming.

The developer and city officials wanted to go with a less thorough environmental analysis, contending it was adequate to rely on rigorous studies completed in 1990 and 2002.

Nearby residents, more than 500 of whom have signed a [petition \(http://m.utsandiego.com/news/2013/dec/08/san-marcos-highlands-resident-opposition-wildlife/\)](http://m.utsandiego.com/news/2013/dec/08/san-marcos-highlands-resident-opposition-wildlife/) opposing the development, have repeatedly complained that the older documents aren't adequate.

Those complaints have now been vindicated by the Local Agency Formation Commission, which approves annexations and boundary changes.

"It would be appropriate for the city to produce a new subsequent environmental impact report that will reflect a comprehensive review of the project's current circumstances that does not rely on 23-year-old data and determinations," said a recent letter from LAFCO to the city.

Kevin Mecum, a leader of the resident group, said Monday's announcement was good, not great, news. He said the residents are still worried a poorly designed project might get built.

Jason Simmons, a consultant working for the developer, estimated the project would be ready for consideration again in six months to a year.

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