

El Dorado Hills Telegraph

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CSD board supports incorporation

By: *Philip Wood, The Telegraph*

El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board members voted 4-0 last week to support a resolution that favors turning El Dorado Hills into a city and dissolving the board.

"This is the most important issue to (face) the El Dorado Hills CSD since it was formed in 1962," Board President Joe Chinn said, after listening to about 20 residents give their opinions on incorporation.

Most of those addressing the board appeared wildly in favor of incorporation with one resident calling it a "love fest." Even Ken Cooley, mayor of the newly incorporated city of Rancho Cordova, talked about the benefits of cityhood.

Only two men expressed their opposition to incorporation. One stated his belief that if El Dorado Hills were to incorporate, it would begin to look like Elk Grove, which has been on an express train to build-out since it incorporated. In 2000, when it incorporated, Elk Grove's population was 59,000. It now boasts a population of more than 100,000.

"You can have every single franchise of fast food chains here," said resident Jim Bayless in comparing El Dorado Hills to Elk Grove. "It's not for me."

Proponents of incorporation hailed the financial strength the city would have. Almost all of the speakers noted that public safety would increase if El Dorado Hills could contract out for law enforcement services or even if it created its own police force.

CSD General Manger Wayne Lowery said incorporation would gain \$1.6 million annually for El Dorado Hills to spend locally.

Any contracts the CSD currently has with service providers, like cable and trash, would transfer over to the city, he added.

The permit process would be much quicker for builders, who would not have to go through the county, Lowery continued, adding the permit process for the teen center took more than a year to work its way through the process at the county level.

On the city level, board member Joe Chinn noted it could take 60 to 90 days for a project to go through the permit process. He pointed out the county does not have enough staff to handle the flow of permits it receives.

Lowery also pointed out a city would have direct control over its land use instead of getting direction from the county, where more money could be spend on parks and trails.

Prior to calling for the vote, Chinn said he believes the quality of life in El Dorado Hills would be greatly enhanced by incorporation.



A map shows the proposed boundaries for El Dorado Hills if it becomes a city. Courtesy Photo

"It will put local control in the hands of the people," he said.

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