

El Dorado Hills Telegraph

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What's behind Measure P

By: Harriett Segel &, Raheem Hosseini, The Telegraph

Of the approximate 33,000 residents, the circa 18,150 registered voters within the proposed "city of El Dorado Hills" will be able to vote Nov. 8 on the following:

n (a) incorporation of El Dorado Hills (EDH) (Measure P),

n (b) the City Council members initially 'elected at large' and (c) whether council members will be voted for 'by district' or 'at large' in the future (Measure Q).

Summary

El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission approved the Resolution of Application on June 8.

The reasons for the incorporation include:

To enhance the physical character, community identity, and quality of life in El Dorado Hills (EDH) by more local control over more municipal services, land use planning and investment within the City.

To increase citizens' accessibility to local government officials and provide a local forum to enable residents to participate in civic affairs; To increase local responsibility for determining public service levels and providing capital improvements; To ensure the best allocation of state and federal funding to provide needed City services.

To consolidate responsibility for various city services and enable better access to additional state and federal funds to increase public service levels.

To allow for improved EDH public services for: (1) police protection; (2) fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS); (3) general health, safety and welfare by enforcing local laws and ordinances; (4) increase capacity and safety of local roads; (5) maintenance of existing roads; (6) parks, recreation facilities and programs; (7) assurance of adequate services and facilities to meet demands of all residents.

To enhance EDH development that promotes and preserves a blend of residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial and open space land uses.

To promote economic prosperity and fiscal independence through identification and implementing common economic goals.

Terms and conditions

of incorporation:

City services shall include: General government; law enforcement; land use planning and regulation; building permits and inspection; maintenance, monitoring, creation of roads and related facilities currently maintained by the county or Springfield Meadows Community Services District; Animal Control; Flood Control; Code Enforcement;



The fate of El Dorado Hills will be decided by voters on Election Day, Nov. 8. The Telegraph file photo

Public Works not otherwise specified; and all current El Dorado Hills Community Services District services.

Services not provided by the city include: water and sewage treatment; fire protection and emergency services; resource conservation; schools, library; transit services subject to provisions of Condition 8 below; public cemetery regulation; air pollution control; provision of Advanced Life Support Services (ambulance).

The city will use the current El Dorado Hills Community Services District park and recreation standards and related fees.

The city shall fund Wildland Fire Protection for the city, which becomes a "Local Responsibility Area" as a result of incorporation.

The city shall adopt the county General Plan as the interim city General Plan. It will be in effect for 30 months or until the city adopts a new city General Plan.

Except for two Green Valley Road sections, the city shall maintain any road segment on the city's boundary. The city shall be responsible for all public roads, drainage and related facilities within the city on incorporation date. All county roads and offers of dedication of road segments shall transfer to the City upon incorporation.

The city agrees to pay the county an annual sum of \$1,060,300 for the next 25 years beginning in the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

In favor of Measure P:

El Dorado Hills Community Services District

Bass Lake Action Committee

Republicans for El Dorado Hills Cityhood

The Sacramento Bee

Opposed to Measure P:

El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce

El Dorado Hills Fire Department Board of Directors

El Dorado Hills Associated Firefighters

El Dorado County Fire Chiefs' Association

El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Harn

What the proponents say (edhcity.org):

No new taxes.

Counties are more likely to seek tax hikes from voters.

The new city will have budget surpluses and higher service levels.

The new city's budget will be more than sufficient.

The county has largely planned our growth; we can manage it better.

Services like police protection will improve.

A city of El Dorado Hills will be better for affordable housing.

We'll have more money for fixing roads and improving traffic.

What the opponents say (saveedh.com):

Three hundred percent as many building permits as normal have to be issued to meet expenditure needs.

The city would have half the budget as neighboring cities for police services.

There is no budget to recover lost California Highway Patrol services, continue the current \$12 million highway project or for affordable housing planning.

Revenue neutrality laws won't let the city retain any dollar from the current tax base. The county keeps all money.

\$300,000 extra per year for wild fire protection is not counted in the budget.

No new services are outlined in the proposal.

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