

Measure F defeated

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06.09.10 - 12:10 pm



Updated June 8, 2010, 11:05 p.m.

Updated June 9, 2010, 4:49 a.m.

Brentwood voters Tuesday solidly rejected Measure F, a landowner initiative that would have redrawn the urban limit line to include 740 acres in southwest Brentwood and allow up to 1,300 homes.



With all precincts reporting, the 'no' votes were 4,338 and the 'yes' votes were 3,210, a 15 percent margin.

The hotly contested issue featured charges of dirty politics from both sides. The campaign heated up even more as the election neared when a pair of representatives on the Local Agency

Formation Commission (LAFCO) wrote a letter to the Press that they said laid out possible consequences of the measure's defeat, and the possibility that the area could then be annexed by Antioch. LAFCO is the agency that sets boundaries for cities and special districts in Contra Costa County.

Last week, the Contra Costa Mayor's Conference said it would investigate whether the commissioners, Concord Councilwoman Helen Allen and Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder, were wrong to use their LAFCO titles on the letter, which was used in the Yes on F campaign.

During the election, opponents said that the threat that the area could develop as Antioch was not real, and that proponents were using it to scare voters into voting for the measure. They pointed to the potential of 1,300 homes as "inappropriate for the area" because the Brentwood General Plan calls for only 579 housing units. They also said the additional houses would make the already depressed housing market worse, and that the development agreement contained in the measure would mean the developers, not the city, would control the area.

Proponents argued that annexation and development was needed to make certain the area developed to Brentwood standards, and to provide safer access to a pair of schools in the area. The measure also provided money for recreation, job growth and public safety.