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Plans on hold for regional art center

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Rumors of a mail-out bond measure for a regional arts center in El Dorado Hills have fizzled, putting a question mark on a project that has gestated since 1978.

The Marble Valley Regional Center for the Arts got a boost last April when a number of factors seemed to fall into place.

El Dorado Hills secured 22 acres for the visual and performing arts facility from a Cowell Foundation grant and an adjoining development project by Parker Development was set to provide water, utility and road accessibility. Additionally, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved two \$10,000 grants to survey community interest in the project and the El Dorado Musical Theatre came on board as a sponsor.

Regarding the Parker Development project, the El Dorado Irrigation District last week adopted a resolution requiring potential development in the Marble Valley area to comply with the terms of a pre-annexation agreement, which has been under discussion for several years.

The annexation proposal by Marble Valley LLC involves 2,338 acres of land and includes a 398-lot single-family subdivision along with a clubhouse, potential school, parklands and the cultural and arts center.

The EID decision will go before the El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission for discussion in December.

"The annexation is critical for us to move forward," said Wayne Lowery, a Marble Valley board member and general manager for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. "The board has kicked around the idea of running a ballot issue, but recently decided the time was wrong. Sometime in November they'll be meeting to rethink their strategy."

Marble Valley president Michael Hendren says a crowded ballot factored into the decision not to put a measure before voters this November, but says there were other issues as well. Not much will be known about plans going forward until the board's meeting next month, he said.

"I doubt you will be hearing much before next spring," Lowery added.

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