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April 25, 2007- Home Depot eyes Cameron Park site

By Roger Phelps, Democrat staff writer

The Home Depot Corp. is eyeing some 30 acres in Cameron Park for a new outlet site.

“The pre-application just arrived (Monday),” said Larry Appel, assistant development services director for El Dorado County.

Officials from the county and from the company met earlier this spring to discuss the home improvement chain's building a store in Cameron Park. Home Depot built a Placerville store about two years ago.

A tract on the north side of U.S. Highway 50 that once housed a sewage treatment plant is the company's choice in Cameron Park, Appel said.

“The area used to be used by one of the community service districts,” Appel said. “An aerial photo shows old basins.”

It is bounded by the highway to the south, by Cambridge Road to the northwest and by Country Club Drive to the north and east.

“Country Club kind of pinches down toward the highway,” Appel said.

Also among candidates for Cameron Park commercial development are two tracts of similar size that lie nearby, on the south side of Highway 50. One is near the intersection of Flying C and Cambridge roads.

“Lowe's was looking there, about three years ago - rumor was strong,” said Carolyn Doty, chief executive officer of the Shingle Springs-Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce. “And on 33 acres east of Coach Lane, we've been working toward a nice hotel. That's also where we'd like a town center.”

Doty noted that the county has responsibility to preserve several rare plant species that grow in several Cameron Park locations, some found in nature only in those spots. In general, she said, her organization is looking toward a clarification between officials of the county and other agencies that share responsibility for plant protection on just what the county can and can't allow in development projects that affect rare plants.

“Home Depot would be nice for us,” she said.

No county planning staff member yet has been assigned to a Home Depot Cameron Park project, Appel said.

Home Depot California spokeswoman Kathryn Gallagher did not return calls for comment.



HOME DEPOT'S NEXT MOVE locally could be onto this tract of about 30 acres in Cameron Park. The home-improvement chain came to Placerville in 2005. See story “Home ...”

Said Appel, "We should have more information in the next few weeks."

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