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## Some El Dorado Hills residents call cityhood quest premature

**By Cathy Locke -- Bee Staff Writer**

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El Dorado Hills voters rejected incorporation, but those who opposed splitting with their county say cityhood's day may come.

Fred St. Jean, a longtime El Dorado Hills resident who campaigned against incorporation Measure P, said the push for independence was premature. Cityhood should be reconsidered about 2013, as the community approaches full development, he said.

At that point, St. Jean said, "We would know where we are, what our economic base is. We would know what we could support and what we couldn't."

Greg Jones, spokesman for the "Yes on Measure P" campaign, said incorporation proponents may have been ahead of their time. "About the time you wish you were a city," he said, "that's when it tends to happen."

Measure P, he said, was "about foresight and vision."

Voters on Tuesday rejected incorporation, 57.1 percent to 42.9 percent, following a campaign that focused heavily on the proposed city's fiscal viability. Opponents argued that the comprehensive fiscal analysis, the underpinning document for incorporation, failed to account for fluctuations in the economy.

Norm Rowett, vice chairman of the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee, said cityhood proponents hadn't expected attacks on the financial study. "We felt the comprehensive fiscal analysis was a document that would really stand up," he said.

It was the third such document prepared in the past four years for El Dorado Hills and all were favorable to incorporation, Rowett said.

Jones said the "Yes on Measure P" campaign also faced fundraising difficulties because cityhood proponents had had to raise about \$420,000 just to bring incorporation to a vote. Jones said he expects final campaign reports will show incorporation proponents were outspent by as much as a 4-to-1 ratio.

With substantial funding from developers associated with the El Dorado Hills Business Park, which had sought to remain outside city boundaries, incorporation opponents waged a multimedia campaign, including television ads. They maintained cityhood would result in higher fees and taxes to pay for the services incorporation proponents sought.

For more details, see Thursday's Bee.

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