



Homes plan worries locals

“This project is too harsh. It looks like a wedding cake. It’s not about putting parks way up where you have to be a mountain goat to get to it.”

KEN RYAN
FORMER
YORBA LINDA
COUNCILMAN
AND PARKS
COMMISSIONER

“We already have a lot of overcrowding in our schools. Even if (the developers) have the money, they have to build the schools and build the facilities.”

PATRICE WERSCHMIDT
YORBA LINDA

“The thing that worries me the most is that there’s already a situation with existing ingress and egress and all this is going to add to it.”

LES MASON
YORBA LINDA,
FORMER
SERGEANT WITH
BREA POLICE IN
YORBA LINDA

Those who fled 2008 fire say adding residents would make future evacuations more difficult.

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

When the Freeway Complex fire shot down Blue Mud Canyon in 2008, it bathed the hillside behind Via Del Agua and Stonehaven Drive in flames.

The night the fire broke out, Marlene Nelson drove up into the cul-de-sac to find her husband hosing down their home, and she watched as the roof on her next-door neighbor’s garage exploded. The Nelsons’ house was spared, but the houses on either side were not.

Homes have since been rebuilt, and the nearby hillside has recovered its green coat. These hills are being eyed for the development of homes.

Nelson and Sharon Rehmeier are among the most vocal of the neighbors trying to squash two developments that would add 452 single-family homes on 550 acres bordering Chino Hills State Park, mostly because, they said, of what would occur if more cars tried to evacuate the area during a future fire.

“I don’t think anyone who has knowledge of the 2008 fire would ever move into here,” Rehmeier said.

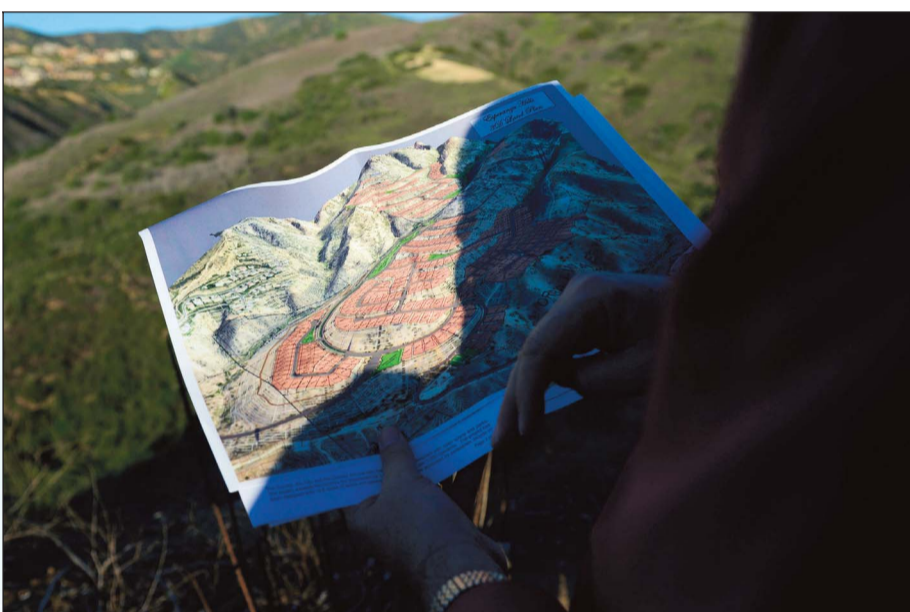
But the developer said there would be less chance of a fire there with the homes in

SEE HOMES • PAGE 3



PHOTOS: KEVIN LARA, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Marlene Nelson of Yorba Linda inspects a trail near Blue Mud Canyon in Yorba Linda, which is part of a planned home development. Nelson opposes the new homes, in part because of the potential fire hazard.



Bob Kane of Yorba Linda holds a map of the plan for several hundred homes in unincorporated county land just outside city limits. Kane, who has lived in Yorba Linda for 14 years, witnessed the destruction of many homes near his Via Del Corral neighborhood and is opposing the project due to its location where fires burned during the 2008 Freeway Complex fire.



Yorba Linda residents walk along a trail near the site of the planned home development.

New library location narrowed to two spots

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The city is closing in on a new location for its public library, which has outgrown its current home at Imperial Highway and Lemon Drive, as the City Council is expected to pick one of two spots next month.

“It was getting really tight in there,” said Melinda Steep, the library director.

Expanding the current library location would lead to too little parking space.

The two finalists:

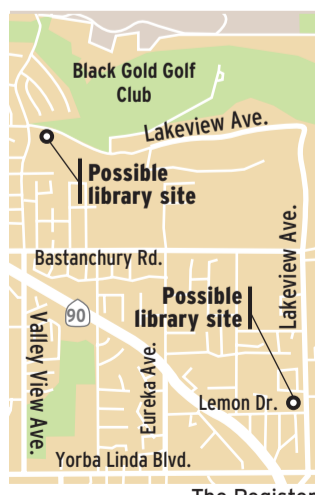
- A seven-acre parcel on Lakeview Avenue, just east of Lakeview Elementary School, that is called the Tank Farm.
- A four-acre former

strawberry field on Lakeview Avenue behind a Stater Bros. supermarket.

Both sites are owned by the city and would provide the library with enough room.

Three other possible locations were scrapped for various reasons: next to the Yorba Linda Community Center at Imperial Highway and Casa Loma Avenue; at the vacant Vons market; and next to the historical town center on Main Street.

Construction of the new library is expected to cost \$29 million, with \$6 million coming from the former Redevelopment Agency. The old library site will be sold to help pay for the new one.



The Register

Construction of the new library is expected to cost \$29 million. The old library site will be sold to help pay for the new one.

Sheriff’s Department urges vigilance against burglaries

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The Orange County Sheriff’s Department is asking Yorba Linda residents to remain vigilant in the wake of deputies arresting a crew of four on suspicion of burglary.

Lt. Bob Wren, chief of police services for Yorba Linda, said the arrests were the first sign of success in combating a string of home burglaries in the city that had been a problem long before the sheriff’s deputies took over community policing Jan. 5.

“I want the word to get out that this is not the place you want to go, because there are deputies all over the place,” Wren said.

Deputies were called to the

5600 block of Chalon Road around 8 p.m. Jan. 29 by a resident who said a woman came to the door and asked for someone who did not live there. Deputies found Lisette Ayala, who matched the resident’s description, in a car with Andrew Rashad Gatlin, Terrence Davion Collins and Art Anthony Wibberding.

Officers found property, guns, cash and burglary tools, including a crowbar and bolt cutters, in the car, police said.

Officials said they believe the individuals were involved in a crime ring specifically targeting and operating in Yorba Linda.

“I want the word to get out that this is not the place you want to go, because there are deputies all over.”

LT. BOB WREN
CHIEF
OF POLICE
SERVICES
FOR YORBA
LINDA

SEE BURGLARIES • PAGE 2

HOMES

FROM PAGE 1

place, and the Orange County Fire Authority would have to sign off on the emergency access before any construction starts.

The two projects are Cielo Vista, with 112 homes, and Esperanza Hills, with 340 homes, on unincorporated county land just outside Yorba Linda's city limits.

The projects are in their environmental-impact-study phases and still must be approved by the county; it could be years before any ground-breaking.

A plan to build such a large gated community like Esperanza Hills under the county's oversight instead of Yorba Linda's has been contentious in town. The city's general plan recommends the annexation of future development on county land that's within Yorba Linda's sphere of influence, which includes the hills.

Because Cielo Vista and Esperanza Hills would be built on unincorporated land, the city has limited authority; the developer

would have to get city permits, though, to tie into city streets.

Debbie Kroner, a spokeswoman for OC Public Works, said the county and city are communicating about the developments.

"The county will send project plan submittals to the city as they become available," she said in an email. "The county will also include the city on all public-noticing activities associated with the project. The city will have the opportunity to provide comments at various stages of the process."

Esperanza Hills developer Doug Wymore said he and his team are constantly receiving suggestions from Fire Authority officials on how to design fire breaks and emergency-access routes and adding vegetation that is less prone to burning. He pointed to fire breaks of cleared land that would be maintained by the homeowners

association as evidence that nearby residents would have greater protection.

"I'm not telling you that this makes this fire proof, because nothing will," he said. "It will be something that's not just a bunch of brush."

Wymore plans to spend millions of dollars working with the Yorba Linda Water District to pipe in water from its pumping

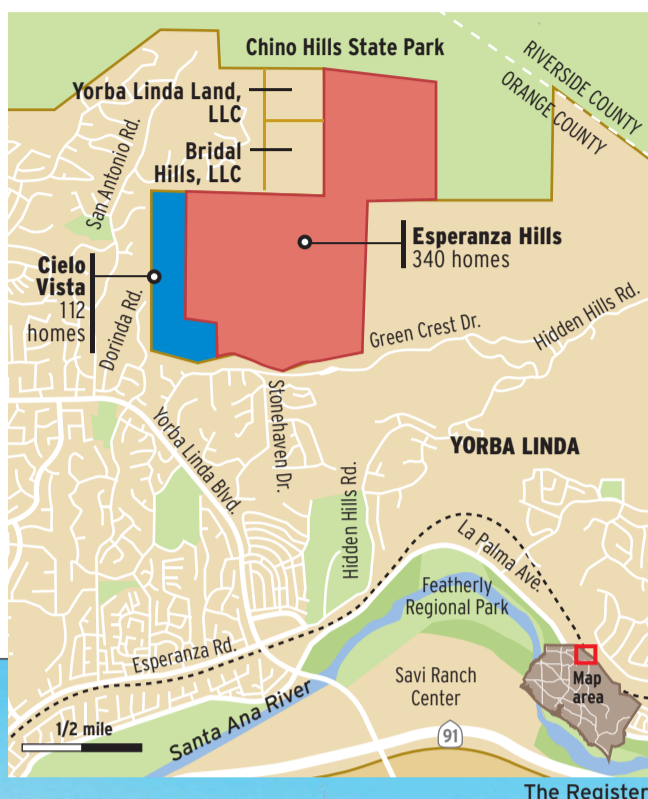
station in Hidden Hills.

Last week, more than 100 residents went to the Travis Ranch Activity Center to hear about the Esperanza Hills project. Their comments were critical.

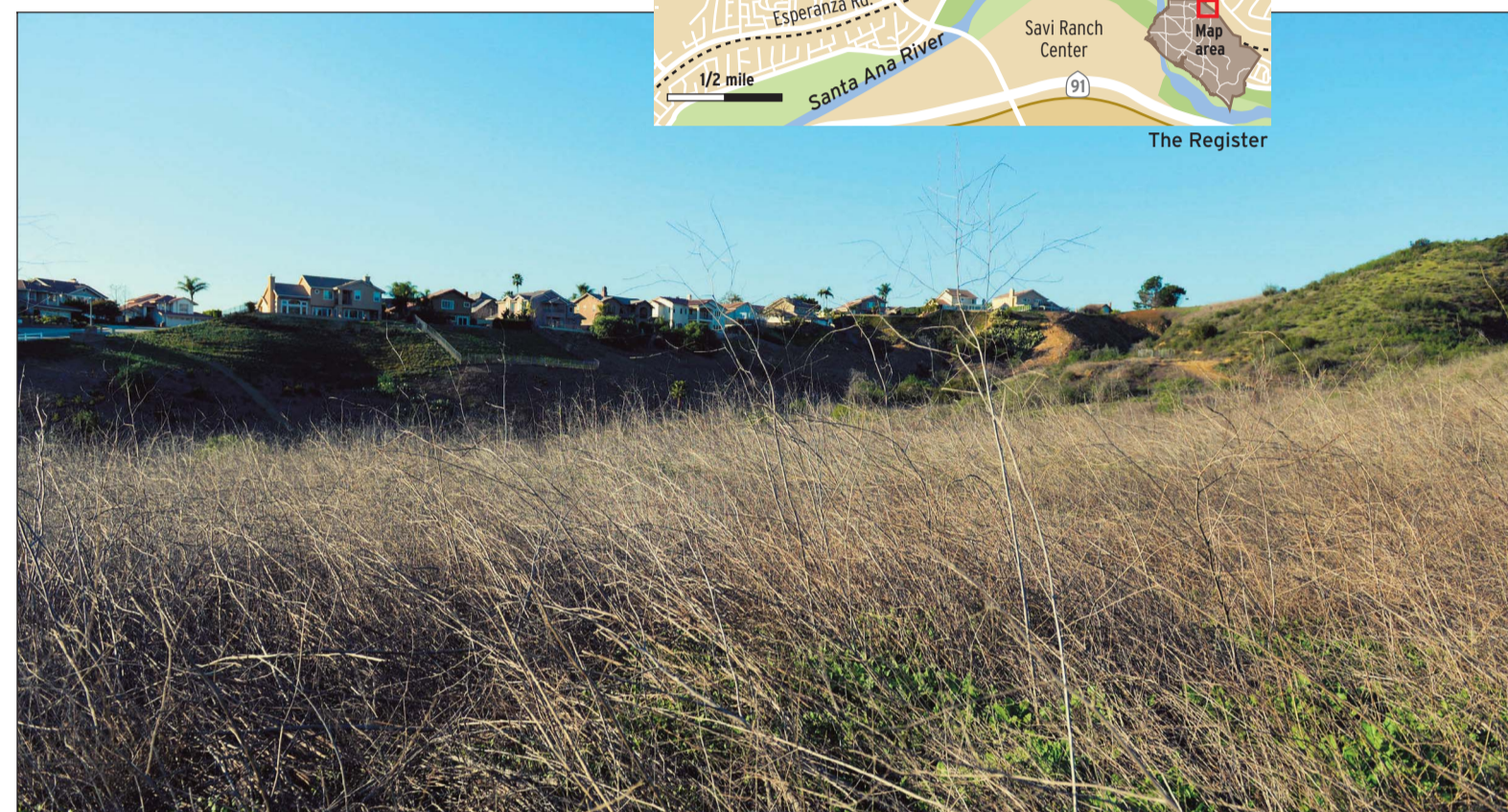
Sage Community Group, developing the Cielo Vista project, did not return phone calls.

Last week Steve Harris, Yorba Linda's director of community development, announced at a meeting held by the county that the city would be recognized as a "responsible agency" under the California Environmental Control Act, so it has some discretionary power to approve or deny these projects.

The city still does not have the authority to vote up or down on the project, Harris said. That power is still with the county's Planning Commission and the county's Board of Supervisors.



The Register



KEVIN LARA, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Brush and weeds fill most of the Blue Mud Canyon area, where two home developments are being planned. The area of unincorporated county land just outside Yorba Linda city limits was scorched during the 2008 Freeway Complex fire.

A look at Esperanza Hills

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The first thing you notice when you walk at sunset onto the untouched land known as the Murdock Property is the chirp of the small birds and insects hiding in the windblown brush.

This piece of land is the largest undeveloped parcel within Yorba Linda's sphere of influence, largely because of multiple complications on the site.

The Whittier Fault, 40 miles long, runs through the southern end of the property that would include the Esperanza Hills project and gives it steep hillsides and deep canyons. Lamb Architects, the designers of the Esperanza Hills project, must leave this part of the property as open space because building codes prohibit building on a fault line.

On an adjacent site that would hold Cielo Vista, oil wells still dot the property and some would remain around the fringes of the development.

Resident Bob Kane, a physics and chemistry teacher at El Dorado High, moved into his home on Via Del Corral 14 years ago partly because of the view of the hills and his ability to hike just by walking to the end of his street and on to what could be Cielo Vista.

While living so close to untouched wilderness, Kane said he has found a family of quail living in his yard and spots rabbits, roadrunners, deer, bobcats and tarantulas. He said a cougar has even been spotted prowling the area.

Kane doesn't support the construction but thinks that if it does go forward it needs to see major design changes.

"We know it's not public property," he said. "But if it is built it should be built in a way that the people that will live here and the people that live around here can both enjoy."

LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM

Carpet, Flooring, Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops Sale!

CARPET

| | |
|--|--|
| COMMERCIAL GRADE Reg. \$4.76 sq. ft. | \$1.14 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| TEXTURED SAXONY Reg. \$4.99 sq. ft. | \$1.79 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| LIFETIME STAIN WARRANTY Reg. \$5.99 sq. ft. | \$2.48 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| CARPET YOU CAN LIVE ON FOR LIFE Reg. \$6.99 sq. ft. | \$3.41 Installed Price sq. ft. |

HARD SURFACE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| HARDWOOD Reg. \$11.99 sq. ft. | \$4.95 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| WOOD LAMINATE Reg. \$7.99 sq. ft. | \$2.39 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| PORCELAIN TILE Reg. \$8.99 sq. ft. | \$3.75 Installed Price sq. ft. |
| TRAVERTINE Reg. \$14.99 sq. ft. | \$6.45 Installed Price sq. ft. |

Our Super Low Prices Include

FREE

• 3 YEARS FINANCING*

• Carpet Installation with Lifetime Guarantee
• Upgraded Padding
• Furniture Moving & Carpet Removal
• & they always include SALES TAX

Kitchen Cabinets

\$59

Per Lin. Ft. Installed
Reg. \$424 Lin. Ft.

Based on 20 Lin. Ft. Cabinets. You Pay \$1180.

Granite Countertop

\$14.99

Sq. ft. Installed Price
Reg. \$69.99 sq. ft.
(With FREE Stainless Steel Sink)

Shower Walls Special

\$14.50

Sq. ft. Installed Price
Reg. \$42.99 sq. ft.

Next Day Installation

HUNTINGTON BEACH

7225 Edinger Ave. Suite F
In the Huntington Furnishings Mart
714-894-5828

FULLERTON/ YORBA LINDA

353 S. State College
714-449-1053

IRVINE/ LAKE FOREST

16163 Lake Forest Dr., Suite D
Close to Best Buy, Spectrum Crossroads Center
949-753-7997

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

32210 Camino Capistrano, Ste. A
Next to Wells Fargo
949-496-6683

ORANGE

757 N. Tustin Ave. (St.)
Across from Big Y Yardage
714-744-2986

ADDITIONAL LA CARPET LOCATIONS

CORONA/RIVERSIDE (951) **278-8070**
2410 Wardlow Road #107, Corona (next to IHOP)

SAN DIMAS/DIAMOND BAR (909) **394-9016**
744 Arrow Hwy., San Dimas (Across from McDonalds and Lowe's)

ONTARIO/RANCHO CUCAMONGA (909) **987-6556**
765 N. Milliken Ave. (Ontario Center) Unit D, Ontario

SHOP AT HOME (800) **684-4100**
Professional consultant will bring flooring samples to you!

Where the Low Price is Backed with Lifetime Service Guarantee!

www.LACarpet.com

Hours: M-Th 9:30-7:30, F 12:30-7:30, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-6 • Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover • Minimum 150 sq. ft. purchase • We install from LA to Palm Springs to San Diego • Ca. St. Cont.'s License #600509 • *On Approved Credit 36 equal payment. If not paid in full by due date, accrued 27.99% APR will be applied (from original date of purchase) See store for details. **We replace carpet of equal value, you pay 49¢ per sq. ft. for installation.

LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM
LACARPET.COM