

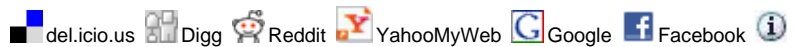


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Council to look at seven ideas for base

• CONCORD: All proposals for former naval weapons station will be st

By Tanya Rose
STAFF WRITER

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Baseball analogies flew through City Hall on Tuesday night as Concord city leaders debated which of seven development scenarios for the mothballed Concord Naval Weapons Station they wanted to see studied further.

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"We're not even at first base yet, but let's at least get moving toward it," said Councilwoman Laura Hoffmeister, who voted with two others to study all seven proposed development scenarios in the upcoming environmental review process -- friendly scenarios.

Ron Brown, executive director of environmental group Save Mt. Diablo, likened the day's training.

"We're getting everyone ready, all limbered up, but the game hasn't even begun," he said

Mayor Mark Peterson wasn't quite ready to get out of the batter's box. He said he wanted development alternatives that came out a week earlier.

"I want to get it right," Peterson said of the years-long planning process for the largest pie the East Bay. The inland portion is 5,028 acres.

"Some of these alternatives came out three weeks ago and two of them didn't exist until a

"People will say, 'All we're saying is we want to study all of them in the (environmental im) up expectations. It doesn't make sense, in the grander scheme, that we're pushing throug meeting."

Vice Mayor Bill Shinn, Hoffmeister and Councilman Guy Bjerke disagreed, saying the public has b involved, and they vote seven. The vote was 3- and Councilwoman Hel

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"We've gone on for the Shinn said. "This isn't a know what's going on. I attention after all this tir Shame on you."

The alternative concept development to be stud impact report that's due

Once that document lay quality and other enviro public and council will v alternatives to one reus out by summer 2008.

The alternative concept residential units and 47 the land set aside as p call for a population of 17,700 to 29,000 jobs,

Environmental advocat asking from the beginning for 80 percent of the base to be set aside as parks and open sj

"What's left is two square miles of developable area," said Seth Adams of Save Mt. Diabl 1,000 members in Concord.

His group is asking for 300-foot buffers on both sides of Mt. Diablo Creek, no roads east c open space sites, and special attention paid to wildlife habitats and corridors.

The most intense development will likely happen near the North Concord BART station a scenario has differing levels of intensity on the west side of the property.

Resident Bruce Feld said he is worried about too many houses being built on the site bec into two halves -- an "old" Concord and a "new" Concord. Also, he said, he worried about

"I'm concerned that this will impact property values throughout the area," he said. "We're foreclosures, and that's now. What will happen then?"

"And what about the strain on infrastructure, the strain on power, on water, on roads? You stand up and say, 'Enough is enough.'"

Kathy Gleason of the Concord Naval Weapons Station Neighborhood Alliance said she w council's decision to study all seven scenarios.

"We are happy, but for a minute there we weren't sure what was going to happen," she s

In a cost-cutting move two years ago, Congress voted to close the weapons station and c

Reach Tanya Rose at 925-943-8345 or trose@bayareanewsgroup.com.

ONLINE

To see the alternative concepts, visit <http://www.concordreuseproject.org>.

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