

Northern Triangle plan approved over protest

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VICTORVILLE • Things got a bit contentious as the council voted — in spite of concerns raised by officials from San Bernardino County, Apple Valley and local businessmen — to move forward with a plan that will guide development of some 10,000 acres in north Victorville.

The Desert Gateway Specific Plan approved Tuesday night establishes zoning for a 15-square-mile area west of Interstate 15 and north of the Mojave River. It's focused around the planned DesertXpress train from Victorville to Las Vegas (or a similar entertainment-type anchor project) and includes zoning for large chunks of land not currently in the city's boundaries.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Rothschild and Councilman Terry Caldwell took issue with compatibility and sustainability concerns raised Tuesday by the deputy director of San Bernardino County's Land Use Services, Jim Squire.

Squire said his agency was so far pleased with adjustments the city made to the plan to make it more compatible with the county-owned dump that sits at the center of the Desert Gateway area. However, he expressed continued concern with how the plan would impact mining operations in the area and with the availability of water to support the master-planned community, golf course and other features included in the zoning plan.

Caldwell said the fact that concerns over the water supply were even raised suggests the county is “condemning this desert to a no-growth policy.”

“If that is the game plan,” Caldwell said, “lets get it out on the table ...”

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