

Massive Victorville expansion moves forward

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VICTORVILLE • The council voted to [move forward with plans to expand Victorville some 32 square miles to the north](#), in spite of concerns raised by the area's largest property owner and by City Manager Jim Cox.

Cox recommended Tuesday night that the council hold off on its vote for another couple of weeks, until staff could meet with representatives from Apple Valley over conflicts indirectly related to the expansion and with San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt.

The majority of the land Victorville is eyeing for eventual annexation is currently unincorporated county property, bringing the community of Oro Grande into the city's sphere of influence and adding a buffer around Southern California Logistics Airport in anticipation of future development.

However, Mitzelfelt has said he fears that bringing the land into the city will not adequately protect the mining operations and mineral resources that exist there. And so the staff of the Local Agency Formation Commission — which has to approve any expansion through a commission Mitzelfelt helps chair — has proposed its own map, taking some 21 square miles out of the center of Victorville's proposed expansion area.

Councilman Terry Caldwell challenged anyone to find evidence of a time when Victorville hasn't been supportive of the local mining industry, citing times when the city paved a road for a company or gave them permission to develop a logistics center.

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