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April 11, 2002

Southeast plan gets initial OK

City would use incremental property tax money to make improvements to the area.

By JIMMY CHAI and JIM HINCH

The Huntington Beach Wave

The Planning Commission on Tuesday approved an extensive plan to renovate the southeast area of the city.

The redevelopment zone would allow the city to use any property-tax increases resulting from neighborhood improvements to pay for other projects in the area.

The City Council could give final approval in June.

The proposed area, between Pacific Coast Highway and Hamilton Avenue, and Newland and Magnolia streets, includes the AES power plant, Edison water tanks and the ASCON/NESI former landfill, which have always been a "blight" to the area, residents and city officials said.

City officials said they hope the money would help pay for street paving, gutters, trees and other infrastructure and cosmetic improvements.

At a recent community meeting, board members of the Southeast Huntington Beach Neighborhood Association split evenly over endorsing the proposal.

Some residents fear the city will either replace the waste dump with another industrial development or use the tax money it generates to shore up the finances of other city redevelopment projects, said John Scott, the neighborhood association's founder.

Residents can voice their opinions of the plans at the next community meeting which starts at 7 p.m. on April 29 at the Edison Community Center, 21377 Magnolia Ave.

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