

New Internet Web sites emerge to serve Valley Springs area

Valley Springs residents have formed a new community action group and created a Web site - myvalleysprings.com - to communicate their message.

The group is "concerned with the impact of rampant growth on Valley Springs and their rural way of life," the group said in announcing its formation. "They strongly believe that growth should be carefully planned, that citizens should have a voice in how the area grows, and that the 30-year-old Valley Springs Community Area General Plan should be immediately rewritten."

MyValleySprings.com was founded by a politically diverse group of citizens after

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- Seana Hogan,
myvalleysprings.com

hearing about a huge housing project being proposed on a 455-acre undeveloped ranch on the edge of town, the announcement said.

Co-founder of the group and Valley Springs resident Seana Hogan said, "Now is the time to ask yourselves, do we want development of this size in Valley Springs? Sure, progress is inevitable, but on a mega-scale? All at once? A thousand homes on one-tenth-acre city lots?"

Joyce Techel, another group member and a 30-year resident, compared proposed development to a "tsunami about to hit our community."

La Contenta resident Carol Barzee said that "if a developer wants to build a large number of homes here, he needs to provide the services the project will need, like a firehouse, a school, parks, and new roads."

MyValleySprings.com will use the Web site and the press to inform the community of current and proposed develop-

ment in and around the Valley Springs area, the group said. They intend to engage local citizens in a community dialogue, thereby creating a strong community voice. The site was created in order to give citizens who might not ordinarily speak out an opportunity to voice their opinions from the comfort of their homes and computers.

Information about the group is available from Lori Whitney at [redacted] or Joyce Techel at 772-1463.

Another Valley Springs Web site, ourvalleysprings.com, also has come online.

"This site will be populated with content written by the people who are working hard to shape the future of Valley Springs and the surrounding communities," it announced.

The site was created by Phil Weaver, co-owner of Sheng Chi Kung Fu of Valley Springs.

"We have been in business in the Valley Springs area for 10 years and I have been a resident of the area for going on 20 years," Weaver said.