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City takes action

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# Laguna Report: all but 'no net fill' agreed upon

By Mike Jasper

Last week, City Council continued to examine the recommendations of the Laguna Report, approving nearly every recommendation in full or part with one notable exception — the highly publicized "no net fill" clause.

"I hope I don't see headlines that say 'Council ducks no net fill issue,'" Councilmember Nick Stewart said after the meeting.

Stewart said the more important part of the council's action on the report was its willingness to create a Laguna linear park.

However, the "no net fill" issue won't go away. Not only is council

divided on support of the issue, it is important to many of the ex-Laguna Committee members who worked on the report.

At last week's meeting, one councilmember supported no net fill, one was against it and one wasn't sure. Absent from the proceedings was Bill Roventini, who left the meeting early. Roventini indicated previously that he might support a "no net fill" recommendation.

Stewart supported "no net fill" unless the Army Corps of Engineers designated the floodplain a floodway. Should that occur, Stewart said the

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Stewart said he would withdraw support, since the floodway designation would make the "no net fill" clause superfluous.

In a floodway, "no net fill" is required by the corps.

Mayor Anne Magnie said she could not support "no net fill" because it would not have a substantial effect on the floodplain level.

Councilman Richard Johnson said he couldn't support "no net fill" unless there was an adequate, designated borrow site.

Magnie said neither economics or a borrow site influenced her decision against "no net fill." But since the Army Corps of Engineers calculated a worst-case scenario of only an eighth-of-an-inch difference in the flood-line height, Magnie said she couldn't justify putting an unnecessary law in the books.

Magnie will meet with City Planning Consultant Bruce Aspinall this week to work out the language of adopting the approved recommendations as an ordinance or city policy.