

Avondale going ahead with project for city's tallest building

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Avondale's tallest building is projected to sit on 160 acres as part of a development boasting hotels, residential towers, a retail and office commerce park, and homes.

The City Council last week agreed to rezone land at the southwestern corner of 99th Avenue and Indian School Road for the project, called Entorno.

Councilman Jim Buster, who lives near the site, said he was concerned about the height of the building, which likely would be the city's tallest at eight stories high.

"Anytime you go over four stories, people start to get nervous," he said.

But Councilman Ken Weise and Vice Mayor Charles Wolf both said the time has come to look at taller buildings near the Loop 101 corridor.

Weise said he would like to see the building even taller than eight stories.

Wolf agreed, saying the corridor is exploding with development, and Avondale should be ready to catch some of the investment along that freeway.

"Even a little bit taller along that corridor wouldn't hurt," he said.

Buster said he just wants the development to be compatible with the surrounding areas.

"I think it's going to be a very nice development, a very nice entrance to Avondale," he said.

Weise also noted a potential water feature or amphitheater and park in the project, which will be the city's first major mixed-used development.

"I would love to have a gathering point for residents of north Avondale to use for concerts and really turn it into an area where people from all over would want to come to."

Millennium Properties & Development Inc. is the developer of the project.

"Entorno will be the next great addition to the Loop 101 commercial corridor, and will provide a terrific new village core for the people of Avondale," said Jeff Chain, Millennium's president. "Our vision is to build a place where residents can live, work and shop in the same area along with visitors at the hotels."

Millennium expects to break ground on Entorno in mid-2008.