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Council OKs 1,655-acre annexation plan

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The Arizona Republic

Jun. 21, 2007 10:25 AM

The Glendale City Council has given the nod for city planners to move forward in annexing 1,655 acres near Loop 303.

Besides this week's action, another annexation request that is further along in the process, 76-acres at the southeast corners of Sarival and Maryland avenues, will be given a public hearing on Tuesday followed by a council vote.

In the coming months, four more requests are expected.

All of the properties run along Loop 303, where development is all but ensured - the state plans to expand the freeway as early as 2011.

For now, the properties are vacant or used for farming. City officials and landowners envision industrial and commercial uses as the area becomes an employment center for the West Valley.

The two properties before council this week: 1,350 acres at the southeast corner of Peoria Avenue and Reems Road and 305 acres at Glendale Avenue and Loop 303.

The next steps will be public hearings, which aren't yet scheduled, on the requests and from there council members will take a final vote.

The larger site, owned by members of the same family and called Woolf Industrial Center, is proposed as mixed use with light industrial, office space and possibly some retail stores.

The 305-acre site is proposed to have light industrial use.

Council members said development of both sites would be compatible with nearby Luke Air Force Base.

The properties fall within a 35-square-mile swath that Glendale strip-annexed in 1978. At the time, officials said it was necessary to protect the military base from residential encroachment.

Strip annexation, since outlawed, meant the city annexed just the edges of the area that runs from 115th Avenue to the town of

Buckeye and from Camelback Road to Peoria Avenue.

That move allowed Glendale to keep other cities from annexing the county land without having to provide police, fire and sanitation services to properties inside the perimeter.

That will change with annexation. Glendale will have to provide full city services once the properties are annexed and developed, which Planning Director Jon Froke estimated will occur in 2008 or 2009.

Reach the reporter at (602... .

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