

► SCHOOL

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Superintendent: Site central to district growth

the covenant where there has been rapid growth.

Hoyle suggested that children living in the covenant attend Rancho Santa Fe School and non-covenant children attend a new school in their neighborhood. "If (the new school) ends up on a covenant site, there will be a fight," Hoyle said.

Mary Cross, who supports the district's proposal, said: "I think that it sends a message of prejudice to set up these covenant-only schools. All the sites have problems. . . I think the site has the least amount of problems."

More than 100 people attended the meeting at Rancho Santa Fe School to discuss the plan to purchase 36 acres at the south-eastern intersection of Del Dios Highway and El Camino del Norte in Rancho Santa Fe.

The district wants to build a middle school and an elementary school on the property, which is in the covenant.

The school would enroll children both in and outside the covenant because the school district's borders extend beyond the covenant.

The district is not likely to find a better location, said Superintendent Dan Vinson. His

advisory committee of 24 district representatives and residents picked the site over 17 others.

The Del Dios property is central to the district's growth, Vinson said. It doesn't have power lines or contaminated land like some of the other locations.

The district has searched for a site for more than two years.

Residents have opposed many sites, saying that a school would increase traffic, cause noise and lower property values.

Many of the residents at yesterday's meeting were from the Hacienda Santa Fe subdivision, adjacent to the property where the proposed school would be built. The subdivision is outside the covenant and part of the Solana Beach School District.

Trustee Deb Plummer said she sympathized with the residents of the 126-home subdivision.

"Believe me, I do feel bad," she said prior to the meeting. "They will be right next door and not able to attend the school."

However, the subdivision cannot be annexed into the Rancho Santa Fe School District, she said. "We can't accommodate the growth we've got now," she said.

The kindergarten-through-eighth-grade district has 780 students. An additional 400 students are expected to enroll by 2007, according to a recent demographics study.

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Residents speak out on Rancho Santa Fe school site

By Sherry Parmet
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11/10/02

RANCHO SANTA FE — Dozens of residents spoke at a meeting yesterday about a proposal by the Rancho Santa Fe School District to build a campus alongside Del Dios Highway, with proponents saying it's the least problematic location and opponents saying it will add to problems on an already congested road.

"It is arrogant to propose a school site on the one roadway that already has everyone 'angsting' over traffic problems with no solutions in sight," said Bob Green.

Kevin Hoyle said homeowners in Rancho Santa Fe pay a premium to live within the covenant, or the boundaries, of the Rancho Santa Fe Association. He said they should not be subjected to traffic and noise caused by a school, which would serve many children from outside

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