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Nipomo CSD to sue county for zoning change

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The Nipomo Community Services District will sue San Luis Obispo County after officials decided to allow houses to be built on an abandoned chicken farm.

The Board of Supervisors in December approved an application by Henri DeGroot to change the zoning on his 40-acre parcel just north of the Nipomo Mesa to rural residential from agriculture.

The district says supervisors violated an ordinance passed last year that requires new home projects to use new water services.

The change would allow DeGroot to build seven homes on his property off Los Berros and El Campo roads, which DeGroot and county agriculture officials agreed was no longer viable for farming.

The supervisors approved the ordinance last May to help reduce pumping of groundwater in the Mesa area, which several studies show is being overpumped.

Though DeGroot's project would get water from Rural Water Co., not the services district, district officials say both agencies pump from the same aquifer.

Both agencies are working on bringing an additional source of water to the Mesa.

Allowing the project to go forward could set a precedent and wipe out efforts to protect the groundwater, district officials have said.

The district's board of directors unanimously decided Wednesday to begin litigation.

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