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## Wildomar residents to file cityhood application

By: LAURA MITCHELL - Staff  
Writer

WILDOMAR ---- An application to incorporate this community may be filed in the next several weeks, Wildomar cityhood leaders say.

Wildomar recently fought off an annexation effort by Murrieta, the city to the south that proposed to take over the southern part of the 118-year-old community. With the annexation attempt behind them, community leaders say they can now concentrate on incorporating Wildomar.

"The cityhood application might be filed within a couple of weeks," Wildomar Incorporation Now Chairman Bob Cashman said Tuesday.

The application would be filed with the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission, the agency charged by the state to oversee governmental boundaries.

Once the application is filed, the process "varies greatly," but typically takes about a year or two to complete, commission Executive Officer George Spiliotis said Wednesday.

The cityhood group so far has raised \$10,000 to pay for costs associated with the application and plans more fund-raisers each month to meet expenses, group Secretary Bridgette Moore said Wednesday.

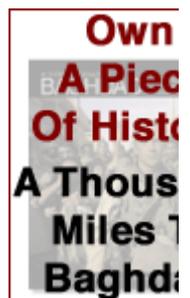
The largest cost to complete the application that the group will incur is approximately \$100,000 for a fiscal analysis, Cashman said. The analysis is required by law and will determine if Wildomar has the tax base to survive on its own financially with, at a minimum, the same level of services that the county provides to area residents.

The fiscal analysis will be the heart of the application, but does not need to be filed up front, Spiliotis said. The application initially would include the justification for cityhood and a plan on how services would be provided, he said.

The application eventually will need to include a map and a legal description of the area to be incorporated, but those documents also are not needed right away, Spiliotis said.



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California environmental law requires the commission to do an environmental assessment of the incorporation for which cityhood backers must pay, he said. All that documentation can be worked on while the fiscal analysis is being done, Spiliotis said.

He said it would benefit cityhood proponents to use revenue and cost data expected to be released by the county in late summer or early fall. That data will be the most recent and will have the costs of services and revenues generated in the area for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, which ends June 30, Spiliotis said.

That information will be added to a preliminary study already completed. The study found that Wildomar would have a tough time becoming a city under the state tax law that went into effect last year. The law removed money that newly incorporated cities could receive to finance their start-up costs. But if the tax law is changed, which state Assembly Bill 1602 is proposing to do, the study found that Wildomar could afford to become a city.

Cashman said cityhood proponents would like to see that tax money in place before the fiscal analysis is complete. The group has hired a Sacramento lobbyist to push the legislation.

"It's looking pretty good right now," he said.

This month, Wildomar Incorporation Now is planning a "Night on the Town" fund-raiser June 28 at Crivello's Restaurante, 32475 Clinton Keith Rd., Suite 117, in Wildomar. The night will include a six-course meal, guest speakers and a silent auction for \$75 per plate or \$125 per couple.

Only 10 tickets are left and need to be ordered by Monday, Moore said.

Next month, the group plans a "Night at The Diamond" that will include a Lake Elsinore Storm baseball game and tailgate barbecue prior to the game, she said. For more information, call (909) 330-0355.

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