

TASSAJARA VALLEY

Memorial park project stalls after key supporter dies

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TASSAJARA VALLEY » In an ironic twist, the death of a key supporter for a big cemetery project has placed the project in limbo.

Sid Corrie, legal owner of site, and whose company, Corrie Development Corp. of Dublin, is the applicant and developer of the proposed cemetery, died April 26.

"It's a little up in the air," said Peter Klein, CEO of Corrie Development, on Tuesday. "It's not stopped, it's not moving forward. We're evaluating it. I can't tell you anything that's positive or negative. There are other investors who are evaluating it."

Klein said he may know more about the status of Creekside Memorial Park, located more than a mile east of the city of San Ramon, in 30 to 60 days. The proposal calls for a 59-



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Bill Newman and his wife, Holly, are among the opponents to the proposed cemetery.

acre, 100,000-plot cemetery along Camino Tassajara.

Contra Costa County planners Telma Moreira and Stanley Muraoka said in emails that the county has no new information on

the project.

"I have not been contacted by the applicant, Corrie Development, and have not received any correspondence," Muraoka said in a July 23 email.

Plans for the new cemetery have proceeded slowly since the initial version of the Creekside Memorial Park in 2005. Since that time, thousands of new homes have been built in

the Dougherty Valley and Tassajara Valley, some within two to three miles of the cemetery project site along Tassajara Road south of Highland Road.

According to county records, the cemetery project site is zoned for agriculture, not for development, so homes cannot be built on the property.

Bill Newman and his wife Holly Newman, volunteers with Friends of Tassajara Valley, have been waging a campaign against the proposed cemetery over the years.

A major issue of contention between Corrie and the opponents has been the water needed for the cemetery. Opponents say the cemetery would cause water shortages in the area. Newman said his home, like the few residences in the area, relies on water wells.

"It's a poorly conceived development project that puts unnecessary strain on our dwindling water sup-

plies," said Matt Vander Sluis of the Greenbelt Alliance in an April 2017 article in the East Bay Times. He also said at the time that the cemetery's approval could set a precedent for development to expand beyond urban limit lines established by the county.

In the same article, Corrie described the argument of water shortages as "baloney" and said, "If we didn't have the water, we wouldn't be able to do it."

According to county planner Telma Moreira, there was a Feb. 21 meeting this year between the Planning Department and Corrie and his engineer.

"There was nothing submitted or received at the meeting," Moreira said in an email. "We did discuss that any hearing is pretty much several months away and not before the end of the year."

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