

RESIDENTS OPPOSE YUBA COUNTY PROJECT

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MARYSVILLE -- A proposed housing development in the foothills near Beale Air Force Base is meeting opposition from some local residents who say the 5,100-house project would contribute to unnecessary sprawl.

About 100 people attended a workshop this week with the Yuba County Board of Supervisors and county planning commissioners to discuss the development, known as Yuba Highlands.

Opponents argued the project would hurt the 2,900 acres of open rangeland about midway between Marysville and Grass Valley. One person called the project "leapfrog development."

Developer Gary Gallelli touted the project as "an asset for Yuba County," creating 10,000 jobs and injecting \$900 million into the local government.

The development would have its own wastewater and water treatment plants, a fire station, three schools and 1 million square feet of commercial space, Gallelli said. As much as one-third of the site also could be set aside for open space, he said.

"We're happy to be here," Gallelli said. "We're not a cut-and-run developer."

Some argued that Yuba Highlands also would encroach on Beale Air Force Base, which Gallelli denied.

Officials acknowledged receiving the final environmental impact report and area plan for the project but took no other action.

County supervisors are not expected to take up the issue again until December or January.