

Escondido Country Club initiative signatures verified

By [J. Harry Jones \(/staff/j-harry-jones/\)](#) 8:20 p.m. June 17, 2014



The Escondido Country Club closed in 2013. It looks much different today. — *Charlie Neuman*

ESCONDIDO — The county Registrar of Voters verified Tuesday that an initiative allowing houses to be built on the defunct Escondido Country Club golf course has gathered enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot.

City Clerk Diane Halverson said she received documents from the registrar's office Tuesday confirming that more than 10 percent of registered voters in the city had signed petitions backing the Escondido Open Space and Community Revitalization Initiative.

With the documents in hand, the City Council can vote on the issue at its June 25 meeting, in plenty of time to get the measure on the November ballot, she said.

The initiative was launched by developer Michael Schlesinger, owner of Stuck in the Rough Inc. Schlesinger purchased the golf course property in 2012.

If the measure passes, it would overturn last year's City Council decision declaring the golf course permanent open space and would allow Schlesinger to build up to 430 homes at the site.

There was a tight timeline to get the verified signatures because the City Council isn't meeting the first three weeks of July. Waiting until July 23 may have blown a critical deadline in getting the initiative before voters in the upcoming election.

An attorney for Stuck in the Rough sent a letter to the city last week threatening legal action if that were to occur. Halverson said the issue is moot since the registrar's office delivered the signatures Tuesday.

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