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No more burning sludge starting next month

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By ERIN WALDNER
The Press-Enterprise

BANNING - An ordinance that prohibits the burning or conversion of sewage sludge in Banning goes into effect in a month.

This prohibition stems from a proposal to build in southeast Banning a plant that would burn sewage sludge and biomass, such as lawn clippings. The developer said the end product would be electricity.

Some Banning residents opposed the project. They said the plant would be bad for people's health and environment and that property values would suffer.

They collected enough signatures to get a measure on the November ballot. If approved by voters, the measure would make it illegal to burn sewage sludge or convert it into ash in Banning.

Members of the Banning City Council had two options: put the measure on the ballot or skip the election and adopt the measure outright. They chose the latter.

The council approved the first reading of the ordinance on June 23 and adopted it Tuesday night without further discussion. Ordinances are effective 30 days after they're enacted.

City attorney David Aleshire has said the council cannot approve the contested development because doing so would be in violation of the new ordinance.

Reach Erin Waldner at 951-763-3473 or ewaldner@PE.com