

# City Council examines Hyundai proposal

Hyundai's proposal would allow the Army Corps of Engineers to approve construction

By Michael Burnham  
Community Reporter

The Eugene City Council decided to break out their tape measures and magnifying glasses to get a closer look at the specifics of a Hyundai Semiconductor America proposal at a Wednesday morning work session. Hyundai's proposal would enable the company to seek approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the third phase of construction for its Eugene operation.

According to city spokesman Phil Weiler, the council will direct City Manager Vicki Elmer and Lane County Administrator Bill Van Vactor to sit down with Hyundai officials and work out the specifics of the company's proposal.

Some of the details council

members would like to know more about include the exact size and scope of Hyundai's third phase of construction. Elmer and Van Vactor will request that Hyundai provide detailed information on what areas the environmental impact statement they requested will cover, Weiler said.

The council's decision comes after a Hyundai request earlier this month to apply for a permit for "Phase Three" of its Eugene operations on wetlands, which is consistent with policy 3.7 of the West Eugene Wetlands Plan.

Policy 3.7 states that any "public or private party can continue to seek individual state or federal wetland permits for any proposed development."

In addition to the permit, Hyundai asked the council to request that the Corps of Engineers prepare an environmental impact statement.

If the council decides to act on Hyundai's proposal, it would also consult with the Eugene Planning Commission to deter-

mine what recommendations concerning the environmental impact statement the city should be made to the Corps of Engineers. In doing this, local government would ultimately discontinue any further recommendations on the contentious wetland site.

Dan Steinberg, a spokesman for Hyundai, said the computer chip producer proposed the plan to the council in order to "avoid the gridlock of local government."

Steinberg also said Hyundai wishes to sidestep any "acrimonious debate" by local government because the amendment plan would eventually go to the Corps of Engineers anyway.

The council also discussed other avenues of action it could

take if the Corps of Engineers turns down Hyundai's proposal.

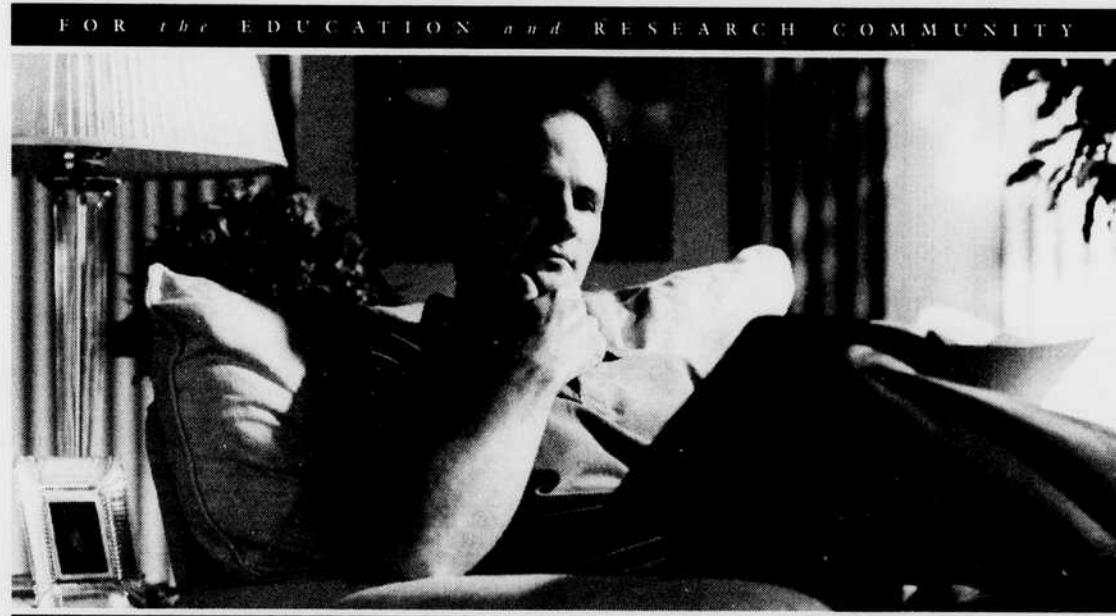
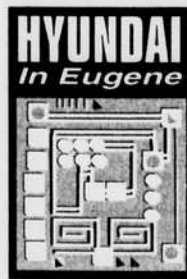
Weiler said council members could come up with a set of plans that would require the city to prepare an environmental impact statement if the corps turns the company down.

There have been other changes within Hyundai's structure.

Hyundai President Jim Hartman announced Tuesday that he will resign as head of the Eugene operations. Mark Strnad was named Hyundai's acting general manager, effective Oct. 20, according to the company.

Steinberg said Hartman's decision is a personal one that resulted from a recent family tragedy, and he said the decision is in no way due to recent criticism Hyundai received.

He also said Hartman's resignation "won't affect any of [Hyundai's] ongoing operations," including the company's recent amendment proposal to the council.



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