

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Board discusses Wal-Mart

Traffic, water shedding among concerns with potential Supercenter

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VICTORVILLE — The proposal to construct a Wal-mart Supercenter near the Spring Valley Lake community has long hung over the heads of Victor Valley College officials, and at the last board meeting a discussion was held on the project's potential impact on the college.

Board member Joseph W. Brady said the project could cause several "serious issues."

"If Wal-Mart wants to build, it's going to build," Brady said. "But I think Wal-Mart needs to be incredibly sensitive to the college and the fact that the Yucca Loma Bridge will open sometimes in 2017."

The Victorville City Council first approved the plan for a Wal-Mart Supercenter in 2012. This year, in late June, the Spring Valley Lake Association was successful in thwarting its progress, with the appellate court ruling that Wal-Mart's environmental impact report failed to discuss several important issues.

Since the report was not completed correctly, "it's back in Wal-Mart's hands," VVC Superintendent/President Roger Wagner said.

"The college's concerns were not so much whether the store comes or not," Wagner said, "but of our ability to mitigate a few concerns we have — one is traffic."

Another potential problem includes water shedding. Wagner said VVC would need to plan ahead to make sure the campus could mitigate water runoff. He mentioned that when the campus was flooded in September 2015, it was shut down for a few days.

"We're not in the position to take in any more water...we're at capacity to handle rain," Wagner said. Brady suggested that a group of county and city leaders, including city engineers and the SVL board, further discuss the issues facing the college and surrounding community.

"I'm personally disappointed that back when the issue was originally raised three years ago, that the leadership of VVC did not want to have an open dialogue with Spring Valley Lake," Brady said. "Now is the time to come up with a universal plan."—*Charity Lindsey may be contacted at 760-951-6245 or clindsey@vvdaily.com. Follow her on twitter @DP_Charity.*