

MERCURY-REGISTER

Letter: Council should fix a bad decision

Chico Enterprise-Record

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Thank you for your editorial chastising the Chico Planning Commission's disappointing decision to deny Mark Abouzeid's request to expand his Volkswagen dealership onto property he currently owns, the old Foster Freeze site at Ninth and Broadway. Their decision begs the question, why do we have a Planning Commission if all its members are going to do is cite the precepts of an outdated general plan to justify not making beneficial plan recommendations?

We love Chico, warts and all. We remember purchasing frosties in the early '50s when Foster Freeze was a popular, new business. Those are positive memories of a Chico parcel that has deteriorated into a community eyesore.

The Volpato auto dealership, directly across the street from Foster Freeze, was another long-in-the-tooth Chico property.

Mark and Amy Abouzeid revitalized the corner of Ninth and Main when they built their attractive Volkswagen dealership.

Their business has provided a positive, aesthetic and financial boost to Chico. We do not know the Abouzeids, but we feel they have the vision to also turn the corner of Ninth and Broadway from a sow's ear into a silk purse.

Surely the City Council members are up to the challenge of making a business-friendly decision.

Let's hope they can see past the planning council's

limited vision. We encourage our City Council members to support this local enterprise and many of its surrounding neighbors who have expressed their support for the dealership's expansion.

— Ray and Jackie Schimmel, Chico

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