

**Bill to put homes on Verdugo Hills Golf Course is killed by its author**  
Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes says the bill allowing 229 homes on the site will be shelved. 'The bill has been tainted,' an aide says. The project developer was a major contributor to Fuentes.

By Patrick McGreevy,

SACRAMENTO -- Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes (D- Sylmar) has shelved a proposal, at least for this year, that would have allowed a developer to build 229 homes on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course over the objections of the city of Los Angeles.

The developer was a campaign contributor to Fuentes. Fuentes had said his bill, written in cooperation with the developer, addressed a broader issue of cities' ability to prevent the construction of housing. But Los Angeles city officials and other critics said it appeared he wrote the proposal, AB 212, to benefit a major donor.

"We are killing the bill," Raul Bocanegra, chief of staff for Fuentes, said today. "Unfortunately, the bill has been tainted. We are going to take a hard look at it and we are going to work with the city."

The city had proposed to slash the number of permissible homes from 229 to fewer than two dozen by changing the planning guidelines that govern the Verdugo Hills property.

Fuentes' legislation would have required the city to consider any change for the site under the standards that prevailed when the development application was filed. Those standards would have allowed 229 homes to be built by MWH Development Corp.

The firm, its principals and business associates backing the bill have given more than \$16,000 to Fuentes' political campaigns in the last two years.