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Appeal of Deer Creek Village project withdrawn

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The Petaluma Neighborhood Association on Friday withdrew its appeal of the approvals for the Friedman's-anchored Deer Creek Village Shopping Center after reaching a settlement with the developer, Merlone Geier Partners.

The City Council was scheduled to hear the appeal on Monday, but the city announced today that the hearing has been cancelled in light of the appeal being withdrawn.

"On behalf of the Petaluma Neighborhood Association (PNA), I'm happy to let you know that PNA and Merlone Geier Management LLC have reached a settlement regarding the Deer Creek Village project," wrote an attorney for the Petaluma Neighborhood Association in a letter sent to the city on Friday.

The settlement came as a result of negotiations between the Neighborhood Association and Merlone Geier Partners.

The association agreed not to file the appeal in exchange for additional traffic mitigations and charitable contributions to organizations that serve the Petaluma community, Merlone Geier Partners spokesman Marko Mlikotin in a statement.

Specifics on the additional traffic mitigations and which charities would benefit were not available on Friday afternoon.

Having secured all the needed approvals for the project, Merlone Geier Partners says it will seek permits to begin phase one construction in early 2013. Construction of the Friedman's Home Improvement store should take approximately 8-10 months, Mlikotin said.

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