

ANNEXATION FAQs



Answers here have been compiled by Residents for Temescal Valley and are based on factual information. For sources, please email:

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Q. Why should I oppose annexation?

A. There is no law that makes the city adhere to its Plan of Services and it will not guarantee promises.

- All zoning can be changed two years after annexation.
- The city has not met its quota of state-mandated low-income housing.
- We have a say on planning and development for the area through the Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council. We know what to expect from the County; Corona is an unknown.
- We will lose representation. There are too few registered voters here to unseat a Corona official or to elect a Temescal Valley representative to the City Council.

Q. Won't annexation give us better police protection?

A. Many law enforcement officers living here have signed letters opposing annexation. They know a municipality places officers where crime is highest. Corona officials also have said priority patrol is given to the city's higher crime rate areas.

- The city has never said the new officers it hires will be 'dedicated' to Temescal Valley patrol.
- The city historically balances annual budgets by not filling open police and fire positions.
- Annexation provides funding to reopen the Eagle Glen community substation, one of at least three the city has closed because of budget cuts.
- City police have never served Temescal Valley. It is unlikely an average 5-minute response time would apply here because the only north-south arterials are the I-15 Freeway and Temescal Canyon Road. There are no major east-west streets.
- The city sold its police helicopter due to budget cuts. The County gives us frequent air patrol.
- The Corona Police Department is projecting significant revenue from Temescal Valley residents for code and parking violations, traffic fines and penalties.
- Corona residents attend meetings to complain about neighborhood crime and response times.
- County Supervisors recently voted to boost hiring over the next five years so that unincorporated communities will have a deputy-to-resident staffing ratio of 1.2 per 1,000. The city's target ratio is 1 per 1,000.

Q. Why is County fire better?

A. It's not a matter of who is better; it's a matter of where we live. We are surrounded by wild lands. Cal Fire, our local service provider, is the key player in preventing and extinguishing wild land infernos.

- Corona has no air resources and must rely on Cal Fire.
- Corona says it will contract with Cal Fire to provide service for wild land areas at a cost of \$96,535 per year. The city had two similar contracts with Cal Fire for wild land protection and let those contracts expire.
- Cal Fire response time is 4.5 minutes; Corona's target is 6 minutes.
- Eighty percent of fire calls in the Temescal Valley are for emergency medical services. A 1.5-minute difference in response to these calls is a matter of life or death. Likewise, 1.5 minutes makes a difference in controlling wild land blazes and limiting property damage in structure fires.

- The County fire chief said he will recommend closing Station 64 in Sycamore Creek if annexation occurs.
- The city does not have the funds to build a new station in Temescal Valley. It will put an engine company in a modular unit until money can be raised to build a fire station.
- The closest County station responding to Horsethief Canyon Ranch and Glen Eden Sun Club will be more than 10 miles away. Station 64 is less than two miles away.

Q. Will my property value increase if we're annexed by Corona?

A. No. Realtors signing opposition letters know that annexation will have no impact on property values.

- The USDA home-financing loan, only offered in unincorporated areas, will go away. This loan offers no down payment and interest rates lower than FHA loans.
- Residents who live here prefer the rural atmosphere as opposed to Corona's urban sprawl.
- Which community is more desirable? According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics: Our level of education is higher than Corona's; our annual medium income is greater and more of us own our homes than Corona residents do. Our crime rate is lower and we have 2,700 less people per square mile than Corona has.

Q. I've heard my taxes will be lowered. Is this true?

A. No. And we're researching whether or not the taxes we pay (County Service Areas and Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District), which will be administered by the city after annexation, will be used in their entirety for their intended purpose in Temescal Valley. Community Facilities District taxes will continue to be administered by Lee Lake Water District and the County.

- Residents in communities paying Lee Lake water bonds will continue to do so.
- There will be higher fees for some services and new fees for services we now receive at no cost.
- The city's 2012-13 budget projected annual revenue of more than \$6.5 million for licenses, fees, permits, fines, penalties and payment for services.
- Included in this amount was over \$1 million for the city's Emergency Medical Services Subscription program. We now receive paramedic service at no charge.
- The city in April raised its fees in the areas of building, planning, and parks and community services.
- The cost of doing business in Corona is higher than in the County. The city's 2012-13 budget projected annual revenue of more than \$1.8 million for business license taxes.

Q. Will the city provide bus service for Temescal Valley?

A. No. Bus service profitability is based on ridership. We have too few potential riders here to make this service feasible and this is why public transit wasn't included in the city's Plan of Services. Here are other omissions from the city's plan:

- The city doesn't mention that there is a County library branch in El Cerrito and that a County bookmobile visits Temescal Valley on a weekly basis. Temescal Valley residents can use the city's library whether or not annexation occurs.
- County animal control services are far superior to the city's. Corona residents complain about the city's shelter being too small, overcrowded and insufficient for a city the size of Corona.
- County code enforcement services are highly praised in Temescal Valley. We have a direct line to our code enforcement officer. The city fails to mention code enforcement in its Plan of Services.
- The city doesn't say how many, if any, additional public works employees it will hire. Maintenance of an estimated 50 miles of roads will become the city's responsibility after annexation.

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