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Winlock approves plans for 322-acre industrial park

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Winlock City Council last week unanimously approved a site plan and environmental conditions for a proposed Winlock Industrial Park, an important step in freeing up the 322-acre site for developing 10 warehouse-type buildings.

The land, owned by Bellevue-based **Benaroya Co.**, is land that was cleared several ago between Military Road and Interstate 5.

The site plan includes 17 recommended environmental requirements, which should fast track business when companies begin to apply to settle at the site, former Winlock Mayor Glen Cook said Monday.

“It cuts down the amount of time it would take a project to get started by six months to a year,” said Cook, who serves on the city’s planning commission.

The conditions for approval follow state environmental policy laws and include water and sewer installation requirements, a 10-foot utility easement on either side of Mickelsen Parkway to service the park and an engineered water storage tank.

Other notable conditions of approval in the site plan included obtaining all approval and permitting from the Washington State Department of Transportation regarding possible improvements to State Route 505, doing the same with Lewis County Public Works on Military Road improvements, and consulting with the Cowlitz Tribe to avoid any historical tribal sites.

The conditions of approval should allow potential businesses a clear path to working in Winlock, Cook said.

“When an industrial business comes along, they’ll get to move much more quickly through the process,” he said.