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Antioch looking at larger annexation plan

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ANTIOCH — Officials took a small step Tuesday toward annexing a larger piece of land near the city's eastern waterfront.

The Antioch City Council reaffirmed its support for Mirant Corp.'s plans for a 760-megawatt generating station before approving environmental documents that lay out how city services would be provided to the nearly 680-acre area.

Antioch is studying annexation of a larger parcel than originally sought. It now includes land near Highway 160 and a residential area along Viera Avenue that became the focus of international attention last summer as the place where kidnap victim Jaycee Dugard was held captive for 18 years.

The Local Agency Formation Commission, which has final say on annexation decisions in Contra Costa County, discourages creating unincorporated islands of land.

"We think the city's doing the right thing by exploring this option. It would be a really ugly boundary issue and problematic for providing services," said Lou Ann Teixeira, the formation commission's executive officer.

The council directed staff to craft an agreement with the county that lays out how future revenues for the unincorporated areas would be shared. It would cost Antioch about \$11.3 million to extend water and sewer lines to the Viera area, where people use septic systems and wells, according to a study in the environmental plan.

Mirant's planned power plants continue to move forward. Chip Little, the company's

government affairs manager, told the council the project should be approved by the California Energy Commission this summer and should be "turning dirt later this year." The project would create about 400 construction jobs during the peak and 15 to 20 permanent jobs, he said.

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