

'Misled' Keowee resident miffed with zoning

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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to The Journal that a neighbor collecting signatures for the Cane Creek petition in the Indian Oaks subdivision misrepresented to him its purpose.

Sloan said he was presented the petition on Nov. 16, 2008, and told his signature was urgently needed to prevent high-rise developments on Lake

Keowee.

A resident of Indian Oaks for the past 15 years, Sloan said he and his wife, Ruth, signed the petition after it was "pushed into our face," and told it was to stop another "MonteLago" from happening.

Plans for the MonteLago project — a high-rise condo-

minium on the shores of Lake Keowee on Luther Land Road — galvanized lake residents in opposition to the project and led to the creation of Advocates for Quality Development Inc. in 2006.

AQD and the county challenged MonteLago in court, which along with a crumbling

SENECA — A Lake Keowee resident claims he was "misled" into signing the Cane Creek rezoning petition scheduled to be reviewed in the coming weeks by Oconee County officials. James R. Sloan complained

petition

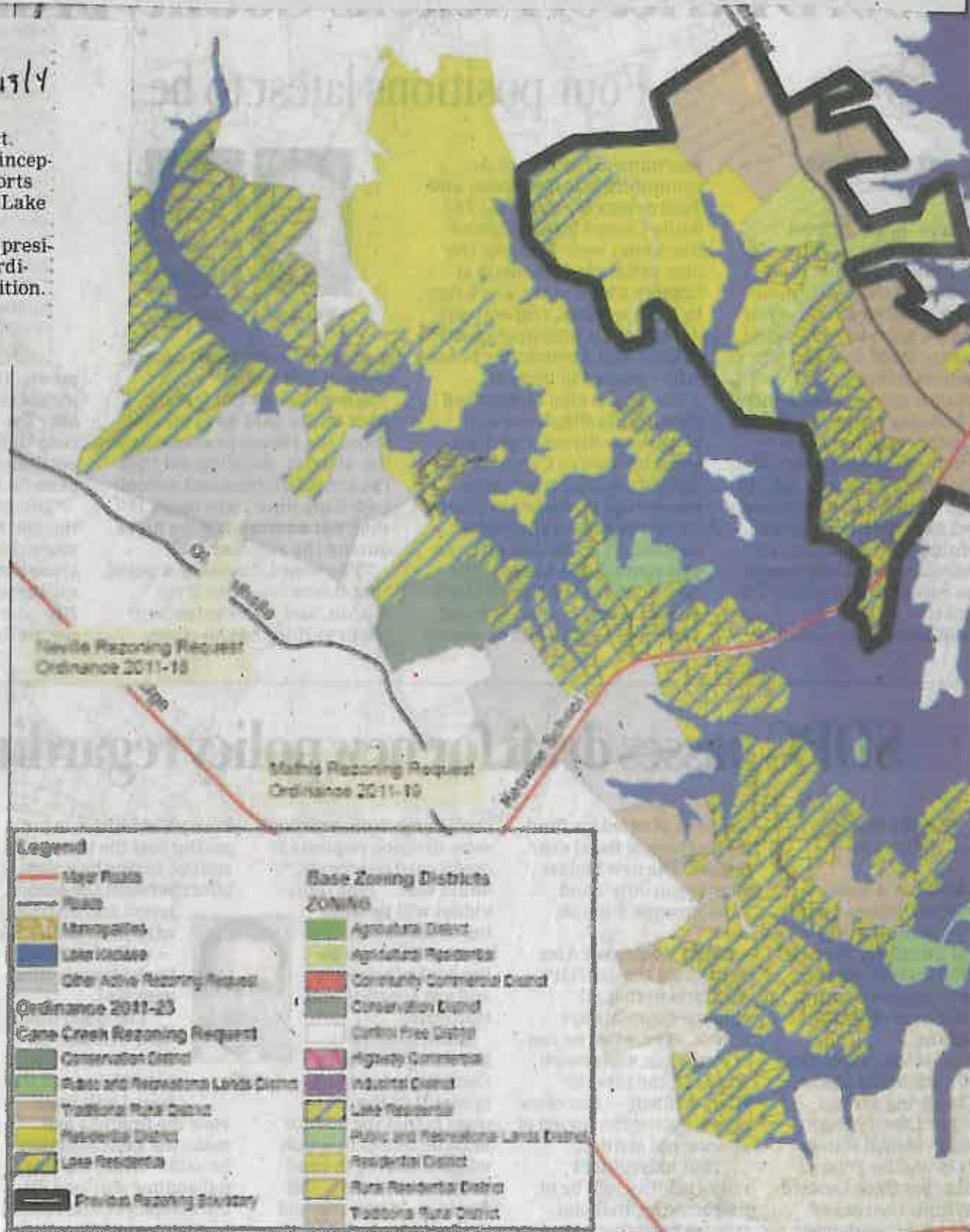
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economy, killed the project.

AQD has been, since its inception, at the forefront of efforts to control development on Lake Keowee through zoning.

Jim Codner, the current president of AQD, has been coordinating the Cane Creek petition.

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ZONING: 'I feel that I was misled, used'

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Sloan said he plans to read a statement at Monday's Oconee County Planning Commission meeting to condemn the manner in which the Cane Creek petition was presented to him. He also plans to demand an investigation "into wrongful intentions on the part of those who instigated this petition to achieve their goal."

Sloan said he had completely forgotten about the petition until he recently received a letter from the Planning Department stating that he had signed the Cane Creek petition.

Initially, Sloan thought his name had been forged on the petition. He later saw that it was his name on the document.

Sloan told the Planning Department to take his name off the petition. That decision would ultimately have to be made by County Council.

"I feel that I was misled, used, abused," he said. "I do not feel that there is a majority of homeowners in Indian Oaks subdivision who signed this petition, and that Cane Creek and other areas were added to achieve what they desired."

The Journal obtained a copy of the petition signed by Sloan and dated Nov. 16, 2008. It states:

"As you likely know, Oconee County Council on 11/6/08 passed the Zoning Enabling Ordinance (ZEO). As a result, we are asking you to sign a petition requesting that the

Cane Creek-South Cove area be rezoned as a Lake Residential District as defined in the ZEO."

The petition goes on to explain grandfathering.

"Any existing or previously permitted (by the County) use of a parcel is grandfathered. A farm stays a farm as long as the owner desires."

It goes on to state: "The MonteLago project will be able to proceed as long as it meets all conditions of the agreement signed with the County. Similar new projects, however, that are not compatible with a quiet residential lakeside community are not permitted."

Sloan said he is a retiree who holds a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of South Carolina. He said he has no desire to be rezoned Lake Residential and wants to remain Control Free.

County Planner Aaron Gadsby said he has received other calls from property owners wishing to be removed from the Cane Creek petition, as well as other calls in support of the petition.

"It's been no different from other petitions," Gadsby said.

The Cane Creek petition and six other rezoning requests come before council Sept. 6 for a first reading in title only. If approved as expected, the petitions go to the Planning Commission for its review and recommendation.