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Hearing on base postponed

By David Allen
Daily Press

A temporary restraining order barring the Victor Valley Economic Development Authority from leasing George Air Force Base has been extended to next Tuesday.

For the third time in a week, a court hearing to decide whether the order should be lifted or extended indefinitely has been postponed.

The order, issued March 31 by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Diane Wayne, is automatically extended until a hearing takes place on its merits.

That hearing had been scheduled for Wednesday but was postponed to Friday at Wayne's request, VVEDA attorney Edward Pilot said, presumably because of a clogged court calendar.

But Adelanto attorneys said they could not make the Friday hearing, so the date then was changed to next Tuesday, Pilot said.

Originally, the hearing had been scheduled for last Thursday, but it was delayed to Wednesday because Adelanto attorneys had filed a brief that was too long, Pilot said.

Adelanto in January filed a lawsuit alleging flaws in VVEDA's second environmental impact report for its redevelopment plans for the base.

A judge found the air quality analysis in the first report to be inadequate.

Adelanto has asked Wayne to issue a preliminary injunction, which could block the lease for 2,300 acres of the closed base until the lawsuit goes to trial.

Adelanto has been VVEDA's base-reuse rival for nearly five years.

George Air Force Base was first recommended for closure in December 1988 and has been shut down since December 1992.