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Lazy 8 Casino Deal Preserved

Opponents of a Sparks casino project backed by developer Harvey Whittemore lost Wednesday in a bid to get the Nevada Supreme Court to erase a controversial settlement that allowed the project to move forward.

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CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) - Opponents of a Sparks casino project backed by developer Harvey Whittemore lost Wednesday in a bid to get the Nevada Supreme Court to erase a controversial settlement that allowed the project to move forward.

The high court ruled in a case involving a lawsuit filed by John Ascuaga's Nugget and 17 citizens who argued that the settlement allowed the city of Sparks and Whittemore's Red Hawk Land Co. to circumvent zoning regulations.

The Sparks City Council voted 3-2 against the Lazy 8 project in mid-2006, prompting developers to file a \$100 million-plus lawsuit. The city quickly settled the lawsuit - first in a secret meeting and later during a public session.

While the resort still hasn't been built, the city's action effectively let Whittemore and Peppermill Casinos keep the project alive.

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