Sky Park designation unchanged

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SCOTTS VALLEY — A recommendation that the Sky Park Airport property be designated as open

space in the city's General Plan went unchanged at a planning session of the City Council Tuesday night.

The open-space designation was made on a 3-2 vote last month and is being met with vociferous opposition from council members in Santa Cruz.

The city of Santa Cruz owns the 46 acres that was formerly Sky Park Airport and plans to sell the property.

An open-space designation in Scotts Valley's General Plan would sharply decrease its estimated \$7-million to \$10-million value as development property. Scotts Valley

Councilman Philip Harry made the motion for open-space designation, arguing that Scotts Valley needs a park and that the Sky Park property is the last large property within city limits that is undeveloped.

The property, fronting Mount Hermon Road, is in the middle of the area Scotts Valley has developed as a regional shopping center.

Santa Cruz Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said her city offered to concede 10 acres of the property for open space, but could not afford to let the entire property go for less than its value to provide park land for Scotts Valley.

At Tuesday's session, the council

dealt with other items and did not discuss the controversial Sky Park designation.

The council has scheduled other General Plan sessions. It is not expected to give final approval to the General Plan until January.

Santa Cruz Mayor Michael Rotkin said if Scotts Valley sticks to the open-space designation, the issue will be decided in court.

The open-space designation was supported by Liberty and Council members Roger Anderson and Barbara Leichter. Opposing it were Councilman Ray Carl and Mayor Joe Miller.