

# Greenbelt panel forming

## Santa Cruz calls for 5 volunteers to fill out new advisory committee

BY PAUL ROGERS

Mercury News Staff Writer

Santa Cruz residents who have strong feelings about the future of the city's remaining 400 acres of open space now have an opportunity to do something about it.

The city council is asking for five volunteers to serve on a Santa Cruz Greenbelt Committee, which will spend the next year planning what parcels to buy, how to come up with the money and what uses eventually will be allowed on the protected land.

"This has been a very divisive issue in the community against a strong background of support," Vice Mayor Scott Kennedy said. "We want a broadly representative committee that can try to build some kind of consensus."

### Hearings planned

The committee will have 17 members. It will hold public hearings, meet with consultants and make recommendations to the city council.

The city is taking applications for these slots:

- A representative of west side neighborhood groups.

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- A representative of sports field interests.

- A representative of agricultural interests.

- A representative of environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club, Environmental Council or Santa Cruz Greens.

The council will review applications and choose the five committee members March 23.

Others on the committee will be:

- Council members Kennedy, Katherine Beiers and Louis Rittenhouse.

- Parks Director Jim Lang.

- A city planning commissioner.

- A county parks and recreation commissioner.

- A member of the Citizens Committee for the Greenbelt.

- Owners of the four major properties (Arana Gulch, Kinzli property, Bombay property, Harvey West property).

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- A Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce official.

In November, Santa Cruz voters overwhelmingly approved Measure I, a ballot initiative that extended greenbelt zoning on eight parcels of private, undeveloped land until July 1, 1994.

The measure also required that the city begin a public planning process to figure out how to acquire the lands, whether by purchase or trade, that might allow some sections to be developed.

### Homeowners' revolt

The November vote followed an attempt last spring by the council to raise property taxes \$36 a year. It failed when thousands of homeowners protested, citing a confusing proposal, poor planning and too many unanswered questions.

### IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

Applications for the greenbelt committee are available in the city clerk's office, 809 Center St., Santa Cruz, phone (408) 429-3784. The deadline is March 19.