

# ✓ SC spends \$600,000 to add to greenbelt

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SANTA CRUZ — Another slice of the greenbelt that encircles the town has been purchased by the City Council.

Officials announced Tuesday that they had agreed to pay \$600,000 for nearly 30 acres at the end of Encinal Street between Harvey West Park and the Pogonip.

"It's really exciting to see this part of the greenbelt property come into public ownership," said Vice Mayor Celia Scott. "It enables us to do a complete plan that includes the property that actually already is used by (hikers) using the Pogonip."

Wave Crest Development, which is owned by Maynard Manson, sold the land to the city, in addition to providing an access route off DuBois Street for emergency vehicles.

Half the money used to buy the land came from proceeds from the sale of Skypark airport land in Scotts Valley, which once was

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## Greenbelt acquisition

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owned by Santa Cruz. The other half came from the sale of city-owned property on Laguna Street.

With the purchase, all that remains in the council's greenbelt wish list is the Bombay property on the west side of town.

Negotiations are under way between the city and those property owners, who recently agreed to suspend legal action against the city in order for talks to proceed. The company already had lost its case in Santa Cruz County Superior Court, where it charged that

city officials had illegally deprived them of development rights.

The Wave Crest land is an important chunk of the greenbelt because it completes the link between Harvey West Park and the Pogonip.

Work on a master plan for using the Pogonip continues, and the scope of that review will be expanded to include the Wave Crest land.

"This is an important addition to our greenbelt land," said Mayor Cynthia Mathews.

Only Councilwoman Mary Beth

Campbell voted against spending the \$600,000. Campbell said that although she supports greenbelt acquisition, she believed that the money could be spent on more essential items.

"I personally feel that in Santa Cruz, the lack of open space is not really our greatest need," said Campbell.

Putting the Wave Crest property into the city's greenbelt not only links the two park areas, but also protects Pogonip Creek, which Scott called "one of the most sensitive areas of the park."