

A move to save Elkhorn Slough

By LEE QUARNSTROM

A "shopping list" of land suggested for acquisition or protection has been forwarded by regional coastal commissioners to the state coastal agency.

Although members of the regional commission did not give priority to any of the 35 parcels at their meeting in Santa Cruz Monday, they agreed with a staff member who identified Elkhorn Slough as a key area for acquisition.

So-called key parcels will be identified by the state coastal commission, which is proposing a bond issue next year to acquire these important pieces of coastal property.

Acquisition of 2,200 acres at Elkhorn Slough is included in the list forwarded to the state commission.

It is possible, commissioners learned, that the state coastal body may ask regional commissions to develop a priority list before the coastal plan is sent to the legislature early next year. At that point public

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hearings could be held locally.

Meanwhile, two public hearings on the acquisition list submitted by regional commission have been scheduled by the state coastal commission. The first will be held Dec. 2.

The commission staff as well as some members of the body stressed Monday that they are not suggesting that all the parcels on the list be acquired through the coastal commission.

Some, they noted, are already in the process of being purchased by other state bodies as well as by local jurisdictions. And,

in some cases, scenic easements to protect open space might be preferable to outright purchase.

Other areas on the list include:

Zmudowski State Beach, a 100 acre parcel, to connect the state-owned property with Jetty Beach; Two additions to Sunset State Beach, 13 acres within the existing state park and 50 to 135 acres of bluffs and land between Sunset and Manresa beaches; 55 acres at Manresa Beach.

Lighthouse Field, 37 acres in Santa Cruz; 60 acres in the upper Santa Cruz yacht harbor area; Natural Bridges, 11 acres.

The list also includes acquisition of Pico Blanco, with 600 to 2,800 acres of the Big Sur mountain suggested for acquisition, as well as 20,000 acres to be added to Los Padres National Forest in southern Monterey County.

Commissioners voted 11-2 to send the list to the state commission. Opposing the action were chairman Norm Walters, who said he would favor the move after the state publishes a management plan for land to be acquired, and Joe Dolan, who said he wanted to know the cost of the acquisitions before voting.

In another matter, one of the three vacancies on the regional commission was filled with the appointment of Linda Craig, of Menlo Park, by the state Senate Rules Committee. Mrs. Craig said she was active in the campaign for Proposition 20, which established the coastal commissions in 1972.

Two other vacancies on the body await appointments by the governor.



The entire community on Moss Landing 'island' can be seen in this unusual aerial view; PG&E plant is at left foreground