

LOCAL

Glenwood deal in the works

Developer willing to sell coveted 200-acre parcel

By JONDI GUMZ
Sentinel staff writer

SCOTTS VALLEY — With the vote on a state parks bond measure a week away, Assemblyman Fred Keeley announced Tuesday that significant progress has been made toward state acquisition of the embattled Glenwood property.

"We have a willing seller and an available buyer," Keeley said.

For the first time, Keeley announced, developer Chop Keenan, who owns the 200-acre parcel, has put his willingness to sell the property in writing.

In a statement released by Keeley, Keenan wrote, "We want to reiterate our willingness to sell all or a portion of the property to the state, the Santa Cruz County Land Trust or to another appropriate buyer with a similar purpose."

In another move, the state Department of Fish and Game has determined that the property is worth acquiring and recommended the state Wildlife Conservation Board take an active role in its purchase.

In a letter to Keeley, W. John Schmidt, executive director of the conservation board, said his agency has contracted with an ap-



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to preserve the land as open space.

Keeley emphasized that a deal has not been reached. Negotiations over the price have not taken place, and Keeley said he didn't know what the right price would be.

However, some state money will be available if Proposition 12, the state parks bond measure, passes Tuesday.

Keeley, who co-authored the measure, insisted it include \$5 million toward the purchase of the Glenwood property.

"The only funds I earmarked were for Glenwood," Keeley said.

praiser to put a value on the property.

"Once we have a completed appraisal that is approved by the Department of General Services, we will be able to enter into formal negotiations with the owners," Schmidt told Keeley.

Until now, Keeley said, there has been "a lot of hope and a lot of speculation" that the state would buy the property, which is home to a number of rare and endangered species.

Scotts Valley residents voted to overturn approval of a Keenan subdivision on the Glenwood site last year, and activists had been working

Save Scotts Valley initiative push 'kaput'

By JONDI GUMZ
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SCOTTS VALLEY — The group that persuaded residents to overturn the Glenwood project has failed to qualify a ballot measure intended to give voters even more power over land development.

But Save Scotts Valley hasn't given up. "We'll make changes and get it out there," spokesman Nick Van Bruggen said Tuesday.

Save Scotts Valley had until Monday to turn in the approximately 1,000 signatures needed to put the initiative on a ballot.

"It's kaput," City Clerk Judi Coffman said. "They have to start over."

The group wanted to have City Council decisions on major developments automatically go to a popular vote. As it stands, development projects go to a vote only if opponents collect enough signatures of registered voters.

Van Bruggen said the group had collected no more than half the signatures needed.

Some residents reluctant to sign said they feared the initiative would apply to

single homes. The initiative referred to projects with "significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on the environment," a phrase defined in state law, but it didn't explicitly say what size project could be affected.

"As a democratic group, we want to respond to people's issues at the outset," Van Bruggen said. "We don't want to act like an unresponsive city council, and go steaming ahead without responding to people's concerns."

Save Scotts Valley proposed the initiative after the City Council approved two developments, 145 homes in the Glenwood meadow, and a 70-unit apartment complex in the Gateway South area. The organization had opposed both projects.

Voters rejected the Glenwood project but no vote was taken on the apartments. The city attorney ruled the state, not the city, has ultimate authority over that location because it's designated for redevelopment.

Van Bruggen said he isn't sure when a new petition would be ready for circulation, although the group might aim for the November ballot.