

✓ Grey Whale Ranch

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\$300,000 secured toward Grey Whale park

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SANTA CRUZ — The movement to buy the 2,300 acre Grey Whale Ranch for a public park has gotten a \$300,000 boost.

The privately-owned ranch near UC Santa Cruz is on the market for \$11 million, and a coalition of activists, Assemblyman Sam Farr and State Sen. Henry Mello have been

working for more than a year to gather enough money to buy at least part of the scenic ranch.

So far, the \$300,000 allocation from the state's newly enacted cigarette tax is the only funding that park advocates have managed to get, but other efforts are under way.

UC Santa Cruz has applied for \$1 million in state park-bond

money to buy a portion of the ranch adjoining the university's nature reserve, according to university spokeswoman Stephanie Hauk. The grant application was approved by university regents last month and forwarded to the State Parks Department for consideration, Hauk said. But a final decision on the grant may not be announced until March.

"We expect we have a good

shot at this grant," Hauk said. "We've been working closely with the State Parks Department."

Park supporters are preparing another grant application for submission to the State Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Trust for Public Land plans to continue negotiations with Ron and Linda Yanke, the owners of the Grey Whale.