Quail Hollow Ranch Lease Idea Backed

An initial step toward the county's leasing Quail Hollow Ranch in Ben Lomond was taken Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors when they unanimously agreed to pursue a lease arrangement.

Parks Director Larry Norris was directed to continue talks with Santa Clara School District, owners of the 300-acre ranch.

The Santa Clara District is asking for a 25-year lease and \$150,000 the first year with an annual adjustment for inflation.

Norris said the county should counteroffer a shorter leasing period and indicated it would be for a lower cost.

It would take a coalition of local agencies to make the deal feasible, he said, and there has been interest from local school

districts, environmental groups, county Probation Department and the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District which wants the land for water recharge

ponds.

Norris was told to return to the board on July 14 with a resolution for this county to express its interest in the lease and to officially open negotiations.