

Greenbelt

## Santa Cruz County

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# SC will take title to Arana Gulch

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Arana Gulch, long sought by the city as part of an urban greenbelt, will be the city's this week.

Escrow is scheduled to close no later Friday on the \$3.4 million, 55-acre wooded and hill property that overlooks the Santa Cruz Harbor on the city's eastern boundary.

The city made a deal in July to buy the property from the Santa Cruz Auto Plaza, a group of auto dealers, who purchased it from the Kinzli family.

Tuesday, the council approved a number of budget actions to pay for the land.

To buy the property the city will make a number of transfers and loans from other accounts, according to City Manager Richard Wilson.

Some \$2 million will come from the

city's Capital Improvement Fund, and another \$225,000 in parks facility funds. The city's General Fund and worker's compensation funds will each loan \$600,000.

In addition, the council approved \$12,000 to maintain the property.

The city hopes to repay the loans by selling the Swanton Boulevard property on the city's Westside, and from the sale of part of the Arana Gulch land, Wilson said.

Soon after the city takes possession, a fence on the property will be repaired and signs will be posted prohibiting camping and fires, said Wilson. Hiking will be allowed.

In other action Tuesday afternoon, the council:

- Approved \$254,700 worth of assistance for theater developer Jack Bari-teau, who is building Santa Cruz Cine-

maplex, a nine-screen theater on Pacific Avenue. The council agreed to \$214,700 worth of street improvements and to pay the \$40,000 in building permit and plan fees.

As part of the street improvements, the council will build new sidewalks, plant trees and install lights on parts of Locust Street, Pacific Avenue and Church Street. The city also agreed to bury electrical wires on Locust Street.

Redevelopment Agency Director Ceil Cirillo said the street improvements were something the city had intended to do as part of its ongoing reconstruction of the earthquake damaged downtown. The \$40,000 payment of the building fees, unprecedented in the city, was appropriate as a message to other developers that the city is willing to work with them to develop key downtown parcels, she said.

- Approved \$121,435 for the repair of the Homeless Resource Center. The recently remodeled building on Coral Street was recently declared unsafe, sitting on unstable soil.

Wilson said the city doesn't know what repairs will be made and at what cost.

The building has been remodeled with toilets, showers and laundry facilities.

- Approved a general plan and zoning changes to allow the construction of a new Santa Cruz School District headquarters on the western edge of Santa Cruz. The proposed 35,000 square foot administrative headquarters is to be built on the corner of Mission Street and Natural Bridges Road, near the Wrigley's factory, allowing the district to consolidate its offices. Part of the land will be donated to the Santa Cruz Land Trust.