

State to study newest proposal for Wingspread

A task force has been formed within the state parks department to review the latest proposal by Ryland Kelley for developing the Porter Sesnon property.

Ken Mitchell, chief of the acquisition division of the state Department of Parks and Recreation, said he will sit on the task force along with the heads of the planning and fiscal divisions. The task force was appointed by a chief deputy director of the parks department who, according to Mitchell, decided Kelley's proposal was something to "take a long, hard look at."

Kelley's proposal would call for the state to buy his 99-year lease on the property next to

New Brighton Beach, and then to lease the property back to Kelley on a 50-year lease.

Kelley could then build 236 condominiums, a performing arts center, 36 campsites for recreational vehicles and a youth hostel.

Even if the state parks department decides to pursue the purchase of the property, Kelley would still have to get approval of the Santa Cruz County Supervisors to go ahead with the development.

Kelley has two other development plans now working their way through the county planning process. Those two plans will be reviewed by the Planning Commission Oct. 16.