

# Santa Cruz To Buy Sky Park Lease

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A tentative agreement has been reached under which the city of Santa Cruz would buy out the lease held by Jim Dahm for Sky Park Airport and take over full management of the airport property as of Jan. 1, 1983.

The Sentinel has learned through an informed source that negotiators for the city and for Dahm recently reached the tentative agreement which still must go before the Santa Cruz City Council for approval.

According to the source, who asked not to be identified, the city will buy out the lease in three payments — one to be made to Dahm this month, one to be made next January and the final payment to be made in January 1983. Dahm would continue to operate the airport through December 1982.

The source, however, refused to reveal how much the city will pay for the lease. The city owns the 45.8-acre airport site located in the middle of Scotts Valley, but has had a lease with Dahm for the operation of the airport since 1968.

While the exact buy-out price is unknown at this time, the city recently had an appraisal done of the airport site which put its value at \$4 million and the goodwill value of the operator, Dahm, at \$300,000.

Under the present lease the city has with Dahm, he pays the city \$200 a month to operate the airport. The lease actually goes until 1993, but contains a clause allowing the city to renegotiate the lease as of 1983.

The Santa Cruz City Council last October authorized negotiations to begin with Dahm over the airport lease, leading to the present tentative agreement.

Once the agreement is approved, the fate of Sky Park Airport will rest directly in the hands of the Santa Cruz City Council that will be seated in 1983.

Scotts Valley councilmen have viewed the airport in the middle of city as a hazard and see the land for use of a research-industrial park. The SV Council has passed a resolution asking that the city of Santa Cruz remove the airport as quickly as possible.

However, airport enthusiasts have pointed out that Sky Park is the only possible location for an airport in the north county area.

The Santa Cruz City Council began looking into the issue of what to do with the airport after the Scotts Valley City Council refused to create a clear zone around the airport.

By refusing to establish this zone, which would have regulated the height of buildings and signs around the airport, the Scotts Valley City Council effectively stopped Santa Cruz from being able to get federal funds to expand the airport and to make the facility safer.