

Greenbelt All sorts of suggestions for city 'greenbelt'

By DENISE FRANKLIN

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SANTA CRUZ — Some want sports fields and others envision income-producing restaurants within the 400 acres the city of Santa Cruz hopes to purchase as a "greenbelt."

Still others worry about planning so much so soon. "Where's our concern for our children's children's children? Seriously, we have to think about them...Long-range planning needs to go beyond 15 years," said Santa Cruz resident Pat Kittle Saturday during a community workshop on the greenbelt.

Kittle was among approximately 90 people who have attended workshops and commented on what they'd like done with four privately owned parcels being eyed for open space. The parcels are:

- The 55-acre Arana Gulch located north of the Upper Small Craft Harbor.

- The 25-acre Wavecrest site near Harvey West Park near Encinal and Dubois streets.

- A 48.5 acre site west of Western Drive and south of Meder Street owned by Margaret Kinzli.

- 246 acres neighboring the Kinzli parcel to the west and owned by the Bombay Corp.

The city hopes to gain \$4 million for the purchase of the sites from passage of CalPAW measure on the June 7 ballot. Any additional money needed could be raised through a local ballot measure next November.

Although the land in question doesn't actually form a circle of open space around the city, they, along with the publicly owned Pogonip and Delaveaga Park, are described as "greenbelt."

A lengthy process to get comments on what should be done with the land began this month with five workshops. The city decided to go this route after a disastrous effort in 1992 to raise \$5 million to buy open

space through a parcel tax.

The effort was abandoned after much public protest. People simply didn't want to give the city money without knowing first what they were getting, said city Councilman Michael Rotkin, who attended Saturday's workshop.

Among 25 residents attending was Henry Hooker of Santa Cruz, who worried aloud that developing and maintaining open space could drain the city's resources.

He suggested something like the Tavern on the Green restaurant operated by New York City in the heart of Central Park to help cover the costs of the greenbelt here.

Melanie Mintz of Santa Cruz, who once worked on a privately owned farm in Goleta that is surrounded by development, emphasized that agriculture should not be forgotten.

Agriculture, more specifically a community garden, is included in the plan the city has approved for the 614-acre Pogonip site — which borders UC-Santa Cruz, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park and Highway 9. The city bought Pogonip with \$15 million in state funds in 1989.

Comments from the community will continue to be sought until June. Then the Greenbelt Committee, made up of residents and public officials, will put together a master plan for the four parcels.

Those who missed the workshops can view a display of the greenbelt proposal in the Californiana Room at the Central Library in downtown Santa Cruz and submit written comments. Another community forum is planned for March and a survey will be mailed in May as well.

For more information on the greenbelt plan, call Kathy Barbaro of the city Planning Department at 429-3555.