

# Scotts Valley OKs plans for Skypark

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SCOTTS VALLEY — In an attempt to rekindle stalled negotiations with the city of Santa Cruz, the Scotts Valley City Council agreed to pay for an appraisal of the abandoned 46 acre Skypark airport Wednesday, and to adopt a tentative layout for a large park to be built on the site.

The airport, which is located in the middle of Scotts Valley's Mount Hermon Road shopping area, is owned by the city of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz wants to build homes and stores on the land, which is zoned in Scotts Valley's General Plan as the site for a 20-acre park, according to Scotts Valley officials.

Negotiations between the two cities to iron out a plan that would allow both development and park uses on the site have been at a standstill for "about eight months," according to Scotts Valley City Administrator August Caires.

But Caires hopes that Scotts Valley's actions will ignite similar interest from Santa Cruz. Scotts Valley wants to include the site into their planned redevelopment

district, which would require cooperation from Santa Cruz. If the land is included, the city's redevelopment agency could help pay Santa Cruz for the parkland, Caires said.

If Santa Cruz moves to allow Skypark's inclusion in the redevelopment area, negotiations between the cities could begin again in May, Caires said.

In an additional attempt to move the negotiations along, the city hired Los Gatos landscape architect William Drulias to draw up a conceptual plan for the park. Drulias presented his plan at the council's Wednesday meeting.

The plan envisions a rambling park at the rear of the property, with tennis courts, a swimming pool, ball fields, picnic areas, a lake, a children's area, skateboard park, community center and open fields. The city's senior center would be located near the park, and the site is also being considered for a new middle school.

In addition to 20 acres of the airport property, Drulias' plan envisions placing lighted ball fields on eight acres of an adjoining parcel.