

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

March 13, 2004

To: Mayor and City Council Members:  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275



Re: Agenda - March 16, 2004 - Item No. 8, NCCP, DEIR

There has been a lot of information about how wonderful it will be to have all the open space for the flora and fauna that is built into this NCCP plan, but little has been said about at the actual cost to the RPV taxpayer.

- How many dollars have already been spent on the meetings and reports of the last several years in connection with the NCCP? ] HAYES 1
- How much was spent on the past summer's survey? ] HAYES 2
- How many actual dollars in property tax money would be lost to the City - that is currently now being paid by the current landowners - if the City purchases? ] HAYES 3
- How much has been spent on the lobbyist the City has had on contract - including the \$15,000 on tonight's Consent Calendar? ] HAYES 4
- From what fund with the \$1 million dollars be taken for this proposed commitment outlined in the February report entitled "Implementation Strategies for Completion of the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Open Space Acquisition"? ] HAYES 5
- Will the taxpayers have the opportunity to VOTE up or down for the matching funds needed and how large a bond? ] HAYES 6

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Comment 1

The City began its NCCP program in 1997. Thus far (through May 31, 2004) the City has expended \$506,376 in total NCCP consultant costs. Of this total amount, \$229,523 has been paid by state and federal grants, leaving the City to pay \$276,853 of the cost. In addition, through June 30, 2004, the City has expended \$75,000 on the use of a state lobbyist to assist with the land acquisition component of the NCCP. Therefore, through May 2004, the City has expended \$346,853 on NCCP related consultants. In terms of Staff time, one staff person spends approximately 10 to 20 hours on average per month on the NCCP.

Comment 2

No surveys were performed last summer.

Comment 3

See Appendix C of the Subarea Plan, regarding reduced tax revenues due to land acquisition.

Comment 4

Through the end of June 30, 2004, the City will have spent \$75,000 on the City's lobbyist.

Comment 5

As described in the Finance Director's April 28, 2004 staff report to the Finance Advisory Committee, the City's \$1 million contribution towards the acquisition is budgeted and would consist of an appropriation of \$538,878, \$332,500 and \$128,622 from Proposition 12, Proposition 40 and Measure A funds, respectively.

Comment 6

The City's contribution has already been budgeted and no bond measure is proposed.

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Thursday, February 26, 2004  
P.V. News

Note: This is a letter attachment and no response is necessary.

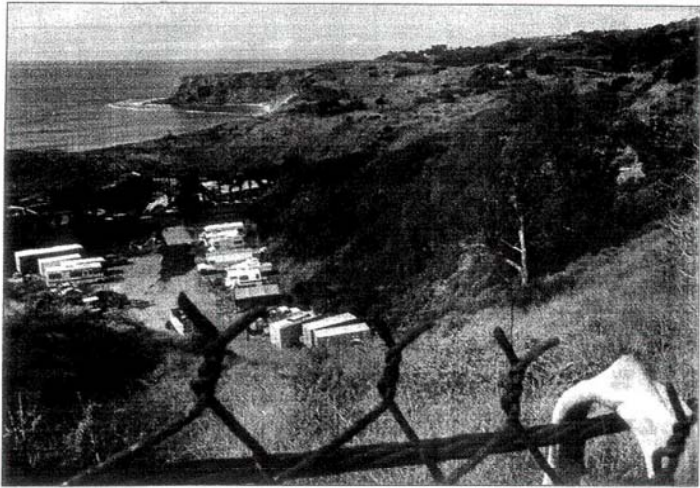


Photo by Tom Underhill

Looking west toward Sacred Cove near the Portuguese Bend Club makes one appreciate the vast open space on the Peninsula. A proposal to preserve more than 1,500 acres of open space in Rancho Palos Verdes hinges on state and local support.

**Preserve Perseveres through State Confusion**

By Josh Cohen  
News Staff Writer

RPV — Plans to preserve more than 1,500 acres of open space in Rancho Palos Verdes are making headway, even as state officials, who the city hopes will approve \$17 million in funding, continue to reel from changes following last November's gubernatorial recall election.

Last Friday, RPV released to the public the draft environmental impact report for its Natural Communities Conversation

Planning program. The NCCP is a state-sponsored land-use process by which open space is delineated for either potential development or preservation.

"The EIR is one more milestone, but it's nice to have reached this point," said Barbara Dye, executive director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, which is partnering with the city to raise money for and manage the proposed preserve. "This project is my highest priority, and I'm going to do everything I can to make sure it is completed."

City officials under state guidelines will take written comments on the DEIR from the public, local environmental groups and state and federal environmental agencies until April 5. RPV Planning Director Joel Rojas, who has worked on the NCCP for more than six years, said the city will hold a public workshop regarding the process at the March 16 City Council meeting.

"This environmental impact report is a major step in completing our NCCP. It's

Please see **PRESERVE Page 2**