

## ***The Independent – 11/23/06***

### **Livermore To Look At Dream List For Open Space**

The Livermore City Council will take a look at what open space projects it might be able to complete north of Interstate 580.

City staff is expected to put together a report after the first of the year, with council discussion following sometime in the first quarter of 2007, said Livermore assistant city manager Jim Piper. The report would look at potential projects, such as preserving the rare bird's beak plant in a salt marsh north of Livermore, or acquiring open space in Doolan Canyon, or other projects.

If open space were preserved in Doolan Canyon, it would serve as a buffer along the city's general plan boundary.

The Dublin city council said in an agreement with Livermore that it would halt its growth at Doolan Canyon Road. However, that commitment could be changed by a future city council.

Livermore has accumulated \$5 million in its open space fund. Some \$1 million of that is the estimated value of its transfer of development credits (TDC) fund, said Piper. That money is reserved for acquiring land in the northern portion of Livermore, up to the city's voter-enacted urban growth boundary (UGB), which is on a line running along May School Road and westward.

The TDC fund is the accumulation of money paid by developers to acquire higher densities in their developments in exchange for donating the money,

which will go for open space mitigation.

In addition, the city could apply for significant funding from the

Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee (ALOSC).

Livermore planners visited ALOSC at its meeting three weeks ago in Dublin. The panel wanted to hear about Livermore's current ability to fund open space, as part of a possible future consideration to grant the city some money out of its open space fund. ALOSC generally wants its funds to enable significant projects, and so looks for solid financial ability in the funding partner.

ALOSC, the result of a lawsuit settlement over the landfill permit, is made up of representatives from Livermore, Pleasanton, Alameda County and the Sierra Club. It allocates open space funding raised by a 75 cent portion of a \$1.25 per ton tipping fee at the landfill.

Some 80 percent of the lawsuit settlement's open space money is reserved for Livermore projects. The remaining 20 percent is for west Valley projects. Pleasanton brought Dublin into eligibility for project money in the spirit of west valley environmental cooperation. Much of the west valley's 20 percent has been used up, with Pleasanton acquiring land for EBRPD park facilities on the Pleasanton Ridge.

However, the Livermore portion has been accumulating. It totals approximately \$4 million, said Chris Gray, chief of staff to supervisor Scott Haggerty, who represents the county on the panel.