



## Land will remain as open space

LAND USE: The action means that parcels slated for development will remain as open space.

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By SHIRIN PARSAVAND / The Press-Enterprise

Riverside County and an environmental group settled a lawsuit that returns land designated to allow residential or commercial development back to either open space or conservation use.

The county changed the land-use designations of more than 640 parcels in an amendment to its general plan adopted in May. The Center for Biological Diversity then sued to stop the changes from taking effect, saying those changes would violate state environmental law and could jeopardize wildlife.

In the settlement filed Friday in Riverside County Superior Court, the county agreed to switch more than half the parcels back to their original designations, either conservation or open space. The rest of the changes restricted development, or were in urban areas, said Adam Keats, staff attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Keats said the county is unlikely to attempt another round of sweeping changes to the parcels' designations under the plan. Rather, he said, any new changes will be at the

request of property owners, who would be responsible for the cost of environmental reviews.

But Katherine Lind, deputy county counsel, said the county Board of Supervisors will consider whether to change the parcels as a group. The Planning Department will prepare more extensive documentation on the proposed changes to avoid future legal problems, she said.

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