

Explosion
hurts two at
Hopland plant

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Feud taints Palm Terrace victory



JOHN BURGESS/PRESS DEMOCRAT

Looking northwest, Palm Terrace is eight acres abutting the buildings to the left.

Land buy near, but Indians battle backers

By CLARK MASON
Staff Writer

Just a little over six months ago, it seemed fate was sealed for eight acres in Sebastopol known as Palm Terrace.

Construction of 18 upscale homes on the ecologically sensitive property next to the Laguna de Santa Rosa appeared inevitable after the city of Sebastopol settled a lawsuit with the developer allowing the homes.

But a last-ditch community effort to raise \$1.5 million to buy the land and keep it from being developed is on the verge of success, according to organizers.

They were about \$40,000 shy Friday of the slightly more than \$1 million they must have by Tuesday to give them title to the property.

"Oh yes, we will make it," said Juliana Doms, the prominent Sebastopol environmentalist who has



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been involved in battles over development of the parcel for 15 years. "We are so close. And right now, every single committee member is passionately connecting with people to try to raise the remainder."

The campaign to keep Palm Terrace undeveloped has overcome the odds, but along the way there have been strange twists.

Organizers offended members of the Indian community, who see the land as an integral part of their heritage, one of the last vestiges of a large Pomo village. Ironically, concern that the land was special

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