



Industry to discuss buying more Tonner Canyon land

By Ben Baeder Staff Writer

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Industry wants to buy 500 more acres in and around Tonner Canyon, an unsettling prospect to environmentalists who say the property is home to pristine oak woodlands.

The City Council at its meeting today is scheduled to discuss in closed session the possibility of acquiring several parcels in and around Tonner Canyon, according to its agenda.

Industry already owns 2,423 acres in Tonner Canyon.

"We're just looking at the possibilities right now," City Manager Kevin Radecki said. "We'll go into closed session to discuss it."

Industry bought the initial 2,423 acres of the Firestone Scout Reservation in 2000 for \$16.5 million and fought a protracted legal battle before a judge finally decided in 2006 the city had a right to the land.

The 2,423 acres - along with the additional parcels listed on today's agenda - fall outside Industry's borders and is just east of Diamond

Bar near Chino Hills.

Industry officials initially talked of building a reservoir in the canyon, but have since backed off the plan.

Open-space advocates fear the 500 acres will be included in a future plan to create a reservoir or develop the area.

"It's called Industry for a reason and I don't think they plan on leaving it as it is," said Claire Schlotterbeck, executive director of Hills For Everyone, a group dedicated to maintaining wilderness areas in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

"Industry has coveted this beautiful

land for years, and they have paperwork that shows they want to put a reservoir there," Schlotterbeck said.

The canyon is home to Tonner Creek and large stands of oaks and black walnut trees, she said.

Radecki said Industry has no specific plan for the area.

Since the city bought the land, it has been left as open space and is used by Boy Scouts and by the sheriff's Youth Athletic League, a group run by deputies that offers fun activities for underprivileged youth.

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