

hij

# DANA POINT NEWS

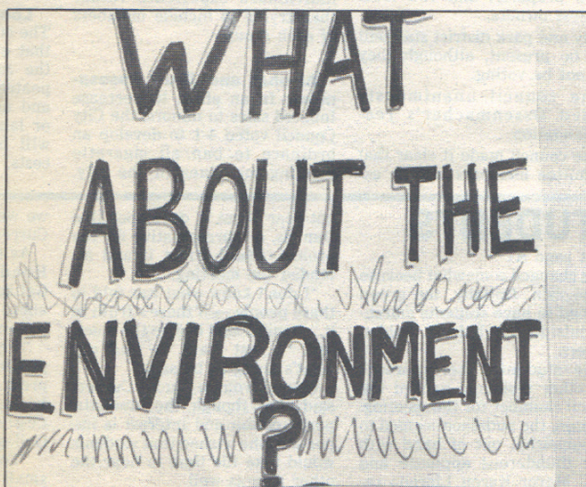
SOUTH COUNTY NEWS

THE ORANGE COUNTY Register

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1993

CITY COUNCIL

## Students protest Headlands development



David E. Caballero / The News  
Amanda Buccì of Dana Point listens during public comments at Tuesday's City Council meeting as protesters voice concerns about development of the Headlands.

By Tiffany Sparks  
The News

The message was one that the Dana Point City Council had heard before. But this time the messengers were different.

Brandishing signs that read, "I hear money talking," "Save the environment," and "No massive development," about 150 people — mostly Dana Hills High School students — came to Tuesday's council meeting to voice their opinions about the development of the Headlands.

While many residents and members of groups known as Save the Headlands and the RH Dana Conservation Group have regularly attended council meetings, their efforts received a boost from the high school students, many of whom are part of an organization called SAVE — Students Against a Vanishing Environment.

"Is this fantastic or what?" said Mario "Maji" Melendez, a founder of the RH Dana Conservation Group.

"I'm so proud. We're trying to make the City Council know not just adults are interested, but youth, teenagers," he said. "It's important that they take our feelings into consideration when going over plans for that area."

The students had their own message as well: they plan on being around for a long time and they don't want to inherit an unhealthy environment.

"We're trying to spark something," said Spencer Roth, a high school senior and SAVE president. "This is the very beginning of a long battle."

RH Dana Conservation Group and Save the Headlands have been holding weekly meetings to garner support and at one of their most

recent meetings, SAVE representatives showed up unsolicited.

"A lot of kids grew up in this area," said 18-year-old Sarah Lee, one of SAVE's three presidents. "It would be a real shame to build all over (the Headlands). Once there's construction, it will never be that way again."

"(We'll) grow up in this community," she said. "We're the people of the future, if you will, and we're affected by what happens."

Though the item regarding the Headlands was not on the agenda, 30 people — adults and students — spoke out against the proposed development during public comments.

Because it was part of public comments, the council could take no action or even respond to the various speakers.

“The voices of these young people who've come here to express their objectives will soon be the voices of thousands of registered voters.”

Toni Gallagher

Volunteer, Save the Headlands

Protesters said their concerns about the project included the environmental impact, increased crime, traffic, pollution and overcrowding. Each speaker also asked that the project be significantly scaled down from the proposed project size.

"It's getting harder and harder to teach when you don't have much environment left," said Mike Sullivan, an environmental studies science teacher at Dana Hills.

The demonstration began with a quiet protest outside city council chambers. Organizers said their

See STUDENTS, page A2