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April 19, 2002

Davis inks Simitian land bill

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A bill allowing the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to protect land from development more easily and less expensively was signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis yesterday.



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Assembly Bill 953, by

Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, allows the district to trade open space easements as well as pieces of property, and increases the limit on the value of contracts the district's executive directors can enter into on their own authority.

"In this way, open space can be preserved more often and less expensively than would otherwise be the case," Simitian said. "Sometimes, a little creativity is required."

The bill, sponsored by the open space district, takes effect immediately.

The Midpeninsula Open Space District manages 45,000 acres of land in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.