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GOVERNMENT CODE - GOV

TITLE 1. GENERAL [100 - 7931.000] (Title 1 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

DIVISION 7. MISCELLANEOUS [6000 - 7599.200] (Division 7 enacted by Stats. 1943, Ch. 134.)

CHAPTER 12. Purchase of Interests and Rights in Real Property [6950 - 6954] (Chapter 12 added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)

6950. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this chapter to provide a means whereby any county or city may acquire, by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, lease or otherwise, and through the expenditure of public funds, the fee or any lesser interest or right in real property in order to preserve, through limitation of their future use, open spaces and areas for public use and enjoyment.

(Added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)

6951. The Legislature finds that the rapid growth and spread of urban development is encroaching upon, or eliminating, many open areas and spaces of varied size and character, including many having significant scenic or esthetic values, which areas and spaces if preserved and maintained in their present open state would constitute important physical, social, esthetic or economic assets to existing or impending urban and metropolitan development.

(Added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)

6952. The Legislature hereby declares that it is necessary for sound and proper urban and metropolitan development, and in the public interest of the people of this State for any county or city to expend or advance public funds for, or to accept by, purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, lease or otherwise, the fee or any lesser interest or right in real property to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of or otherwise conserve open spaces and areas within their respective jurisdictions.

(Added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)

6953. The Legislature further declares that the acquisition of interests or rights in real property for the preservation of open spaces and areas constitutes a public purpose for which public funds may be expended or advanced, and that any county or city may acquire, by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, lease or otherwise, the fee or any lesser interest, development right, easement, covenant or other contractual right necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter. Any county or city may also acquire the fee to any property for the purpose of conveying or leasing said property back to its original owner or other person under such covenants or other contractual arrangements as will limit the future use of the property in accordance with the purposes of this chapter.

(Added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)

6954. For the purposes of this chapter an "open space" or "open area" is any space or area characterized by (1) great natural scenic beauty or (2) whose existing openness, natural condition, or present state of use, if retained, would enhance the present or potential value of abutting or surrounding urban development, or would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources.

(Added by Stats. 1959, Ch. 1658.)