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Jan 4, 2010 7:57 am US/Pacific

Fight To Save Burrowing Owls In Contra Costa Co.

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ANTIOCH (CBS13) — Dozens gathered in protest on Sunday in Contra Costa County over a rare bird threatened by eviction.

Burrowing owls are living in burrows made by ground squirrels.

Protestors are upset the birds are being displaced by a developer who wants to build more than 170 homes in Antioch.

Biologists say Burrowing Owls can adapt to frequent relocations but activists say the owls will be vulnerable to predators if evicted.

"It's let's kick them out and they can go somewhere else. There's no other suitable landscape in this particular connected area," said Scott Artis of Friends of East Bay Owls

The protesters want more studies on the impact on the birds. They say the developers have not come up with a suitable relocation plan for the owls.

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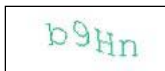
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