Empire News

Neighbor gets court to halt L-P logging plans

By EILEEN KLINEMAN Correspondent

GUERNEVILLE — A woman who grew up playing in Silver Grove has brought a legal halt to Louisiana-Pacific Co. logging operations on the 74-acre harvest site.

Laura Rothkopf, a member of the Clar family whose name was given to a 336-foot virgin redwood on the property, on Thursday obtained a temporary restraining order from Judge Rex Sater stopping the harvest until a Superior Court hearing Jan. 17, according to Rothkopf's Sebastopol attorney Sharon Duggan.

Louisiana-Pacific suffered its first setback on the Silver Grove project last week, when it was forced to stop cutting on about three acres along the riverbank after the state Department of Forestry discovered that homeowners within 300 feet had not been notified as required by law.

Those homeowners were given to Monday to file protests to the logging plan with forestry officials.

Rothkopf, who owns land within 300 feet of the access road to the logging site, said Louisiana-Pacific also failed to notify her, and she charged that the state Department of Forestry's oversight caused her harm.

Duggan said she is seeking "sufficient time" to analyze the timber harvest plan and to respond with suggestions.

Although Rothkopf has not had the opportunity to make formal responses to the harvest plan, Duggan said "she wants very much to preserve the Clar tree."

"Her ancestors clear-cut that area and left that tree as a monument. She wants it and some

of the trees around it saved."

Louisiana-Pacific officials and timber-cutters could not be reached Thursday evening for comment about the restraining order.

They indicated earlier they had no immediate plans to fell the Clar tree but allowed it was a future possibility.