

# Santa Cruz council holding hearing on Bombay Corp. plans

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SANTA CRUZ — The future of another piece of greenbelt land will be considered during a public hearing on Oct. 7 centering on the 246-acre Bombay site on the western edge of the city.

City Council members will consider a proposal from the Bombay Corp. for development rights on a small portion of the property in exchange for giving the rest of the

greenbelt land to the public.

The company has suggested two development options:

- Concentrating 25 townhouse units on the lower portion of the property, which is the segment of the parcel most shielded from public view.

- Building 15 single-family homes in the same area.

A subcommittee of the City Council has been trying to hash out a compromise with the Bom-

bay Corp. ever since company owners agreed to drop their lawsuit against the city over the right to develop their property.

The city had been unable to come up with the \$3.35 million necessary to buy the land outright, so both sides were trying to reach a settlement that leaves most of the land in public greenbelt while giving the property owner some development rights.

Council members thought they

had worked out a deal in 1993 to allow concentrated development at the end of Meder Street in exchange for the rest of the parcel remaining in greenbelt. But environmentalists successfully claimed that the natural habitat would be significantly damaged by such a move.

The latest proposal, however, has intrigued council members because the development would be on land nearest Highway 1 and in

an area that would not be visible from the highway.

In June, the council announced that it was interested in pursuing two development options suggested by Bombay. But they quickly dropped that optimistic outlook when questions arose about the density of the chosen projects.

*The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 809 Center St.*