

✓CF PORTER - SESNON

Porter Sesnon park purchase becomes law

RP SEP 9 1993 p.1
A bill approving purchase of the Porter Sesnon property in Aptos for a state park was signed yesterday, ending a 13-year effort against development of the property.

The bill, authored by State Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville, allocates \$3.5 million to buy the 72-acre site, overlooking the ocean across the freeway from Cabrillo College.

"It's an incredible addition to the state park system," said Vickie Powell-Murray, who formed Friends of Porter Sesnon to oppose development of the park in 1980. The Friends had a core

See PARK / back of section ►

PARK

CF
► From Page 1 RP SEP 9 1993 p.8

membership of 50 to 75 people and sometimes as many as 200 people involved, said Powell-Murray, who praised Mello's efforts.

Ryland Kelley, a Palo Alto developer, had purchased a 99-year lease on the property a year earlier and intended to develop a hotel on the land. Kelley ran into community opposition to his proposals, even when he scaled them back, and he eventually went bankrupt on the project.

The state purchase assures that the land will be used for parks, Powell-Murray said. Friends of Porter Sesnon will continue to watch plans for park development, she said.